

Brain drain from education sector

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HUMAN resource is a priority sector and it is receiving highest budgetary allocation every year. It stood at 634 crore taka in next fiscal year. Donor countries and agencies always lay emphasis on adequate funding to improve the technical skills in the country. As a country, as such human resource development for a developing country like Bangladesh has become a necessity. There is no dispute or difference of opinion on this.

For industrial growth the country needs skilled engineers and technicians who can manage gigantic and sophisticated industrial plants and it is with their assistance that the country can climb up the ladder to reach the goal of economic development. If different disciplines of education like engineering, medical etc are not properly handled, we will lag far behind in our march to progress and fail to compete with the advanced countries of the world.

It is time to sit down coolly and assess to what extent our policy relating to technical education is giving us dividend in the wake of unbridled brain drain from this country.

A participant in a seminar recently held in the city stated large subsidies being provided by the government to help create technical manpower are going waste because of the heavy brain drain from this country. Many brilliant students passing out of the Engineering University (Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology-BUET) leave for foreign destinations in search of lucrative employments and for proper evaluation and utilization of their merit.

It is a misfortune for us that we fail to retain these talents at home. After qualifying in the final examination they go abroad, finding no worthwhile opportunity for them. After having received comfortable jobs in foreign countries, most of them prefer to stay and settle down there.

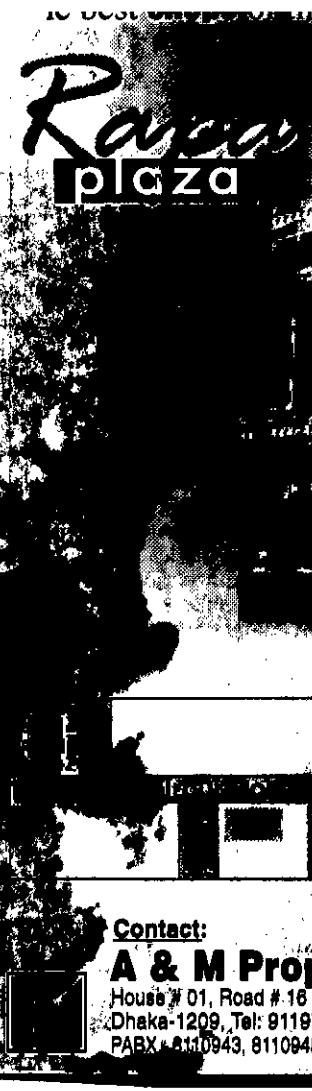
It is interesting to note that an engineering student at

BUET is required to pay less than 200 taka as his fee because of the heavy subsidy the government gives him. But an engineering student at a private sector university is required to pay not less than 1 lakh taka per semester. This discrepancy in the tuition fee of students in the public and private sector institutions serves to benefit the large subsidy the government gives to produce trained manpower.

The public sector medical colleges present equal appointing picture. Medical students studying in sector medical colleges institutes and specialised Medical colleges are required to pay much higher fees. The exorbitant tuition fees notwithstanding, these Medical colleges and centres of learning are making immense contribution to the creation of trained human resources at heavy cost being borne by tax payers. It is a pity these students receiving training at poor tax payers' money go without rendering any service to masses of people at home.

The way engineers and doctors are leaving the country gives one the impression that Bangladesh produces excellently trained manpower to meet requirements of other countries. There are instances to show teachers of different public sector universities go abroad for higher studies on scholarships, but they decline to return home in violation of the agreement with their universities. There is no doubt that these teachers prefer to settle abroad due to higher emoluments and allowances they receive there without caring for the fact their absence will leave a vacuum which will be difficult for their institutions at home to plug in. This process is continuing unabated, the result of which the public sector universities, in particular, are being deprived of their knowledge and higher talents.

BUET and other specialized universities are suffering from brain drain. The government must take a comprehensive view of teachers of BUET and other universities.



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