

## Problems Of English Medium Schools

Sir,

It is about time we looked into the problems faced by the English medium schools, which have cropped up over the years after the independence of Bangladesh.

First, I would like to point out that, as there is no opportunity for the students of English medium schools to appear in the SSC examinations under the Education Boards of Bangladesh, they have no alternative but to have recourse to the 'O' Level system of examinations, for which the students have to pay high fees and also an exorbitant amount for coaching classes. The students have to pay fees for the 'O' Level exams in foreign currency.

Secondly, permission for English medium education was granted two years ago by the Ministry of Education. But, during this period no text books in English have been published for the schools nor have there been any arrangement made for the SSC examinations to be taken in English.

Thirdly, the problem which is faced by the private schools, both English and Bengali medium schools is that they are all residents of rented houses. It is the rule of the Education Boards that, unless the land of the school building and the premises are owned by the school itself, the education boards will not recognise that school for their students to sit for the SSC examination. As a result, the private Bengali medium schools do not know what to do with the students after Class-VII, and the private English medium schools turn to the 'O' Level exams. This problem can be solved to some extent if the private schools are given the opportunity to be affiliated to the schools recognised by the Education Boards, and the students are allowed to sit for the SSC examinations.

Should the SSC exams be allowed to be taken in the English medium and on their candidates are permitted to sit for the SSC exams in English, the fees for English medium study at this level would be within the reach of the less fortunate students. Without fluency in English no good jobs are available to these students in spite of acquiring higher degrees by them.

It will be a great support to all the private schools if the problems facing by them are taken care of.

During the erstwhile East Pakistan the standard of our education was much higher than that of West Pakistan. Why can't we re-establish the same system of education? I would sincerely appeal to the authority to kindly look into the problems faced by not only the private English medium schools but also the Bengali medium (private) schools and oblige thereby.

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