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2

The Present System Of S.S.C. Examination: Its Merits And Demerits.

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THE old method of conducting S.S.C. examination has been changed and a new system introduced. The system rightly involves the introduction of the objective type of questions along with essay pattern. Since the start of this type of examination, much has been said in its favour and disfavour and many of us participated in seminars conferences and published views and suggestions in newspapers and magazines.

Thanks may be extended to BTV authority for arranging a lively discussion on this topic. BTV invited the Chairman of Dhaka Board, Rajshahi Board, and Dr. Shahjahan Tapan of the Institute of Education and Research of Dhaka University to throw light on the issue. It was clear from their discussion that this system will remain in force until a technical report from various Boards are available to the government. The government has rightly requested the Boards to think over the matter and put forward concrete suggestions.

Professor Eunus very correctly pointed out the validity of this system and gave his verdict in favour of keeping this new system in force but at the same time he agreed with some faults now prevail there. The Chairman of Rajshahi Board flatly rejected this system and strongly urged to go back to the old system as he thought it harmed the quality and standard of education and in this connection he cited the examination results of some candidates to justify his comments.

Dr. Shahjahan Tapan nicely analy-

sed the whole new system of S.S.C. examination and put forward arguments in favour of this present system but did not hesitate to detect its faults. He suggested some measures in order to avoid misunderstanding. He compared the results of the S.S.C. examinations held in different years and he statistically proved that the results of this new system of examination did not exceed the percentage of pass of those examinations.

Views of the spectators were also received by the TV authority on this occasion by telephone and BTV telecast their views. Many letters from intellectuals were received and their comments were appreciated and made public to all by BTV.

I was really interested in writing something about this system since its introduction but concentrated upon reading views of the authors about this matter in newspapers. The new system of S.S.C. examination reveals both merits and demerits. One should not speak ill of any system without trial.

Many of us have been criticising this system and giving verdicts to abandon it in order to improve the moral character of candidates and to stop copying at a higher rate in the examination hall. But the question naturally arises in our mind whether copying had completely stopped in the old previous examination system. The answer is no. This is really a

matter of dissatisfaction when one thinks copying is maintained at a speedy level in this present system.

It gives immense pleasure to note that a large number of candidates appearing this year in S.S.C. examination have made tremendous results and secured star marks breaking all the previous records. This should not be a matter of anguish and regret, rather the successful candidates should be congratulated. This system enables the candidates to justify their merits and helps concentrate their ideas and thoughts both on books and guide. It is not very easy to keep in memory the banked 500 questions set by the board authority and it takes much time to learn the answers of these questions which are spread over all the corners of text-books and guides. This system has already been introduced in many developed countries of the world including U.S.A. and proved itself beneficial to them and they are not worried. Every body should wait for a certain period until results of different years are available to analyse statistically to prove if it is fit or unfit for the student community. The present system may be continued with certain modifications:

a) A candidate should secure qualifying marks in both first and second papers of a subject separately. The percentage of passmarks may be 36.

- b) More sets i.e. at least 10 sets of objective-type questions be made.
- c) In order to achieve divisions the allotment of marks should be 65%, 55% and 45% respectively.
- d) The text-books should be thoroughly checked before publication and more interesting topics should be chosen to attract students to study these books instead of going through only guides and note-books.
- e) Descriptive type questions be made to the point to judge their merits.

However, we should refrain from any such comments as may create a sense of uncertainty among the students who are now preparing for the next examination. They should not be made to wonder under which system they will take the examination. The test examinations for SSC examination will start soon in many schools. It has already come out in the press that the new system will exist and the students are preparing themselves accordingly.

There is no declaration from our government to abandon this system or to switch over to the old system of conducting examinations.

Let us wait for the time being till the technical reports of various boards are published and a concrete decision by the government is made known to all in this regard.

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