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How many colleges under Ctg Education Board?

Chittagong Office

CHITTAGONG, Nov. 18.—How many colleges are there exactly in Chittagong district? "It could be 100 or the number may be 120," said a senior Chittagong Board official.

The Chittagong Education Board could not give the exact number of colleges imparting education in the district. What the number the board could quote were 106 colleges over which it got supervisory authority on bifurcation from the Comilla Board. Plus there are 11 more colleges that the Board recently accorded affiliation. But those affiliated colleges

spread all over the country's five southern districts including Chittagong.

However, in the official list of Chittagong Board. The total number of colleges in Chittagong district are 89 including nine newly affiliated colleges. Besides, 12 more colleges all from Chittagong have applied before the Board for affiliation.

But what is evident is that the colleges are now mushrooming in Chittagong district. The local elite or distinguished persons are now found

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regularly laying foundations of the colleges. These colleges except a few exceptions are named after the deceased parents of some persons who usually minted money overnight from unknown sources. And obviously these new wealthy persons are the instrumental behind the mushrooming of these colleges. Besides, some new colleges alike the kindergarten have come into being on initiatives of some business people "absolutely from their commercial point of views." Some private high schools also operating commercially this year suddenly declared their upgradation to college level.

Many of these institutions though still in foundation stage put up attractive advertisements and started admitting students, no matter what their fate of affiliation from the board. These profit mongering institutions apparently took the advantage of government's revised policy decision in the access of students to higher studies on the examination results. This revised admission policy deprived tens of thousands of students to get admitted into better colleges at urban areas.

Taking the advantage of this situation, most of these colleges stepped in for brisk business. "Cashing on

these innumerable helpless students, these private colleges virtually mushroomed. They (private colleges) simply exploited the rush of admission seekers to their commercial advantages," opined Government City College Vice-Principal Atiya Ahmed.

And again one cannot get one's ward into a prestigious private college unless one pays handsome donations. Their conviction is not at all unfounded. One Principal of a reputed private college however dismissed the donation story as totally false. The Principal claimed that those who failed to get their wards admitted to these colleges have spread this sort of canard.