

# Education: Some Thoughts

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It is a matter of great regret that 8 out of 10 men, women and children in our country do not know how to read and write. As a result, in our country teachers are often to discharge most of the duties and responsibilities of parents. Alexander the Great said, "I owe my life to my parents and knowledge to Aristotle."

In the education system of our country the first step is primary education and the last one university education. There is another system of education called Madrasah Education.

One of the aims of education is human welfare and nation building. The overall development of any country depends on the nature and quality of its higher education. At present in our country the Government bears the maximum expenditure of the primary and university education. But the case is different with secondary and college education. In this respect I want to say some thing about the non-government secondary schools and non-government colleges. The number of government secondary schools and colleges in our country is far less than the number on non-government secondary schools and colleges. About 9% of the school and college going students read in government institutions. The fate of the remaining 91% of the students depends on the non-government schools and colleges. So the non-government secondary teachers and non-government college teachers are more in number.

According to the pay-scale declared by the government for non-

government teachers, 70% of the basic salary is paid by the government and the rest is paid by the appointing institution.

But there is no provision for increment in this pay-scale. The status of the Non-government teachers has not yet been determined. The last stage of the promotion of a Non-Government college teacher is upto Assistant Professorship. It is a big hindrance in the way of flourishing talents. It has not only caused a deadlock in the profession but also discouraged the talented persons in nation building activities.

Experienced teachers have suffered a lot after the introduction of 1:3 ratio for the Lecturers and the Assistant Professors. It is necessary to promote the Non-Government College teachers upto the rank of Associate Professor and Professor like Government College teachers. Non-Government college teachers having eight years experience should be promoted to the rank of Assistant Professor and should be given higher scale.

Non-Government teachers get only one hundred taka as house rent. But they have to pay income tax. Teachers should be exempted from Income Tax. Their housing problem should be solved on a priority basis. It is essential to start a 'Housing Project' for them.

In the first phase Housing Projects should be initiated for the non-Government teachers in the four metropolitan cities on an experimental basis. Non-Government teachers having sufficient experience should

be sent on deputation to various Government posts with full responsibilities. Non-Government colleges are facing obstacles in appointing necessary teachers and employees due to the 'Staffing Pattern'.

'Recurring grants' and 'cyclic grants' should be provided to the Non-Government institutions according to their standard, demand and the ratio of their students, teachers and other employees Librarians, Demonstrators and other employees have also remained neglected. Non-Govt. College teachers also should have the right of 'Self-drawing'. Before all other considerations they should have the guarantee of their services/security of jobs.

Teaching aids should be easily available and should be supplied at low cost. In our country the teacher-student ratio is very high which is not found in foreign countries. This ratio should be minimised.

To remove admission problem, more teachers should be appointed and two or three shifts should be introduced. Tutorial and viva-voce examinations should be introduced in the Degree (Pass and Subsidiary) Classes. It is necessary to change the examination system. The remunerations regarding the conducting of the examinations should be fixed on the basis of current market prices of the essential commodities and other situation.

Equal facilities should be provided to the Press Course Master Degree holders.

In order to develop the standard of education, the exchange of visits with

foreign teachers should be arranged. Sufficient instruments and equipment for the practical classes of the science students should be supplied. Library facilities for teachers and students should be supplied. Library facilities for teachers and students should be increased by providing sufficient necessary books and journals of home and abroad. Games and sports, cultural activities, different competitions, scholarships in an increased number etc. should be well-managed in Non-Government educational institutions. With all these facilities, a proper environment should exist in the educational institutions for the sake of free exercise of knowledge and learning.

A definite and explicit educational policy is a crying need for the nation today. A modern syllabus and curriculum should be introduced on the basis of our own culture. The door for higher education and research should always be kept open. Technical and vocational education should be spread in order to face the challenge of time and to become self-reliant, as a nation.

It should be realised that if the teachers survive, education will survive; if education survives, the country will survive and if the country survives, the nation will survive. In many countries of the world the teachers are recipients of high salary and their role is valued in the planning of education is well as other national uplift plans. A unified and single education system should be introduced for the overall development of the country.