

Making Education Corruption-Free

The Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (BANBEIS), a competent authority, has detected two fake schools in the city. There is reason to believe that more such schools, which have their existence only on paper, will be unearthed if the authority seriously carries out a thorough investigation. Even schools enjoying a fairly good reputation may be exposed for financial misappropriation of this kind. Further, education has been commercialised to the extent that the ethical considerations have taken a back seat. It has become an easy way of spinning money. Once the ethical barrier has been removed, all kinds of elements with dubious records are taking advantage of the situation. Now that the government is providing the lion's share—eighty per cent to be exact—of payment of salaries to the non-government educational institutions' teachers, the money has acted as an additional lure for such dishonest elements.

So the detection of two fake schools in two thanas of the city is not likely to be the end of the story. Earlier we had come across reports that a number of headmasters of different schools used to draw salaries against fictitious names of teachers. When the government ordered schools to open accounts in each individual teacher's name, a few such cases came to light. Till today as many as 27,978 teachers and employees of different non-government schools failed to comply with the order. There is no reason to think that the teachers are economically very solvent and would not mind several months' delayed payment. Actually they mind it and cannot afford late payment. Then why should they not submit their respective bank account number as early as possible to expedite the payment of their salaries? This looks like a mystery but actually it is not, for many of these teachers will be found only on paper.

All kinds of educational aberration have been reported in recent years. The existence of fake schools was not known before this. Maybe, they were there—only there was none to look into the matter. Now that an attempt has been made, let the good work continue till each such school is detected and the people behind it are brought to book. Along with rooting out this type of villainy, other related educational corruption and irregularities have also to be taken care of. Education is one area that cannot be left neglected for long or made to suffer as a result of a few people's profit motive or greed. Now that the new education policy has sought to streamline some of the anomalies in this sector, we would like to see that the imposters among the teachers are detected for appropriate punishment.

Like the physicians of government hospitals or in government service, whose private practice may be restricted soon, the teachers of both government and non-government schools and colleges should have some restriction placed on their involvement with private coaching. Unless a sense of discipline is instilled in those who have taken the responsibility of educating our young generation, things will fall apart. The campaign for a national reawakening must start with our education.