

## Education Policy

Sir,

March is over. Bangladesh Text Book Board Authority has not yet been able to publish the new books for the year 1996. The books of primary education are to be distributed free of cost. But a set of books of Class V is selling for Tk. 300.00 in the black market. How is it possible when the authority has not even published it? The new books of class VI and class IX have been released in the market. But they are too insufficient to meet the demand. As such a section of dishonest businessmen are selling these at least twice the original price. On the other hand the board authority has changed the books since 1982 many a time.

We don't know who gains more — the authority or the publishers. Needless to say, a flexible education policy hampers education enormously. We have failed to establish a stable education policy since liberation. The government has taken up many plans and programmes i.e. food for education for rural children, money for education etc. for female students of rural areas. Is it not possible to make a progressive education policy keeping in view the requirements of the country?

During the non-cooperation movement with the government the mainstream opposition parties announced some mode of relaxation at times in the greater interest of the country. But none for the educational institutions. This has undoubtedly done a great harm to our education.

Since independence, many plans and programmes have been taken up by the government. But no plan or programme has been utilised for a period of five years at a stretch. On the other hand the number of unemployed university youths is on the increase. Not more than 0.5% of the total population have the opportunity of studying in the university. The country cannot fulfil the minimum requirements they need. We cannot think of a successful agitation while keeping our educational institutions closed. We prepare academic calendar to carry on the university education in proper time. We earmark the highest allocation for the education sector in each year's National Budget. But what are its consequences? We are going behind day by day.

We can take a cue from our neighbouring country Sri Lanka. The country has been passing through a crucial period since 1975 in a bid to wrest control over the entire area of Jaffna peninsula. Thousands of crores in wealth as well as a large number of lives are being lost every year. But their literacy rate is about 100%. How is it possible?

Our basic problem is in the implementation of a plan. Hotels and restaurants around the university area are subject to destructive activities of musclemen who not only take free food from the hotels but also collect subscriptions. Who are these musclemen? Are they university students? May be or not. But no doubt they pass their time in the university area under the direct patronization of the political parties. They think their lives are safe on the campus than in any other parts of the city. How long will it take to free the institutions from corruption we don't know.

Needless to say, to develop the country, education should be given the highest priority and it should be kept above all sorts of corruptions. Our goals and objectives will succeed in the long run if we can ensure this. It is not possible to succeed in a day. As a nation we have an old heritage and culture which we are likely to forget due to invasion of foreign cultures. What can we accept from the western culture? Instead of the positive side very often we take the negative sides of foreign cultures.

We can say the main problem of our country among others is the lack of proper guidelines. The young generations are not to be made liable for this state of affairs. They don't know their destiny. Only a leader with a vision can guide their future.

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