

Education Reform Priorities And Politics

The 51-member Expert Committee on Education Reform formed last December, avowedly to identify problems that need to be addressed urgently, recommended banning teachers and students from involving themselves directly or indirectly in politics. Need mention that much of what passes for political activity among teachers and their disciples, is nothing but a reflection of the rent-seeking and patronage-dolllture entrenched in national level politics? Its superficial effects—mafia-type maastanism and its multi-ls—have hardly anything to do with what is meant by politics in the real sense of the term.

One may be thoroughly non-political, yet be politically conscientious. Indeed, no reasonably civilized and properly developing country's citizens can avoing so, if intellectual, economic and political growth is an aspiration. The nation at large would be grateful to sick student politics under the overt or covert patronage of parties could be banished, and the camp scoured from assorted self-seekers. But that would still leave the task of cleaning parent-politics in the first place. And only miraculous consensus among the political godfathers and godmothers can do that.

Other recommendations include reducing teacher-student ratio, upgrading educational requirements for governing body members; instituting advisory committees to supervise all educational institutions, banning private coaching and 'notebooks', reducing disparity between the syllabi of English and Madrasah education, guaranteeing universal free primary education and other such points, most of which are not new. Our hope is, the exercise does not end up downgrading the syllabi of seeded institutions on the pretext of establishing parity among various types of education. It must be said though, that even the best of the English and Bangla medium schools and colleges, and madrasahs, could improve by making 'Health Science/Human Biology' a compulsory subject. Given the appalling health status of Bangladesh this is an imperative.

Numerous studies over the past decades have pointed to the declining standard of education in Bangladesh at every level. Recommendations to arrest this trend and enhance the quality and quantity of schools, colleges and universities however seem to be confined within files. The issue is diverted by blaming the 'mushroom growth' of low quality schools, colleges and madrasahs rather than identifying the root-causes behind this proliferation of poor quality curricula and teaching methods. Isn't it more the failure of government policy towards education over the years?

The proliferation of 'learning-shops' are symptoms of a graver disease at the very heart of the national education sector. A survey on post-prima-education reportedly found that many of the thousands of institutions that have sprung up in

the three-day-long free fair was a three-day-long free fair was held at Amaltali Upazila complex in Mohadevpur police on the 2nd day. After completing five meetings, the police submitted charge to the court against them. In July 8, Major Rahaman, a judge of the court accepted them. Under MP formally inaugurated the fair while Sheikh Zaunder, UNO presided over the fair. The fair was held in the town of Agartala. The first Department and Agriculture Extension Department organized the rally. APP Nazmunn Naser, Minister of Health, while Advocate Rezaul Karim, the case on behalf of the accused, appeared for the accused. Finally arranged this fair.

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