



072

# Mushrooming Schools

It is indeed shocking to see the blatant manner in which certain people have commercialised education. A mushroom of schools are coming up which have no objective except making huge profits. Opening English medium schools is a lucrative business these days. These schools keep on increasing school fees in a manner that is open to question. Some of these schools increase school fees nearly every academic year.

In the name of imparting English education these private schools are already charging exorbitant fees. For a small child in the play-group or Nursery guardians have to pay something between Tk. 1500 to Tk. 2000 at the time of admission. Monthly fees for even play-group children range from Tk. 300 and above. Recently most of the

Recently most of these private schools have decided to increase school fees again. Some of these schools have decided to double the amount. A child of the play-group will now have to pay Tk. 800 per month not to speak of annual fee and admission fee.

Though some of these schools increase tuition fees at will, sometime double the previous amount, they can show no clear reason for this erratic raise in fees.

Most of these schools, while charging exorbitant fees, are badly equipped and hardly have any idea of the latest development in child education. Reportedly the staff they employ are also not upto the mark. Very few of them have well-trained teachers. Teachers complain they have no proper pay-scale and other working benefits. Teachers are often dismissed arbitrarily. Allegedly many schools do not give any appointment letters or sign any agreement when employing a teacher. Some of the schools do not care even to pay the salaries to the teachers.

It is high time that a conscious public put a stop to these malpractices and racketeering in the sacred name of education. We are glad to note that the Government has recently issued a directive to all non-government educational institutions not to increase school-fees without taking prior permission from the Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Directorate. This needs to apply strictly to all types of schools.