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## DU's Second-shift Class

Dhaka University is thinking of a plan to introduce second-shift classes. On the face of it, the move looks very good. The argument in favour of opening the university door to more students is no doubt very strong and therefore has to be welcomed. One very strong reason is that no new infrastructure or establishment will be required for the purpose. This means that a greater number of students can be provided with higher education virtually at no extra cost on the institution or on the exchequer. As the broad outlines suggest the expenses for the new arrangement, instead, would be met from the higher tuition fees realised from the students taking the benefit of the new shift. On this point, we think, there is perhaps a need for giving more thought. When students are inducted for same courses, there is no justification for treating them differently. They too are very much going to be the students of DU. So it would be unfair to ask higher tuition fees from them.

After all, the teachers are hopefully going to be the same ones to teach them. And the examinations and other tests too are likely to be of equal standard. Well, maybe, the denial of accommodation facilities in residential halls or of university bus service is enough. Teachers who volunteer to teach in the second shift are definitely going to do so for some extra monetary benefit. The situation is more complex than it looks. If students of the original or day shift decide to treat the second one at par with theirs for political or other reasons, the authority may not be able to differentiate between them for long. These complicated matters need to be addressed before taking the decision in favour of the second shift. Sure enough, of the 46,000 applicants who possess the requisite number to seek admission in DU, only 4,000 will be fortunate to have the chance. There is no reason to believe that many more could not come out creditably, had they got the chance for admission.

After all, the aim is to create opportunities for higher education for as many as possible. From that point of view, we definitely want to see that the plan is implemented soon. The point we would like to make is that there has to be enough seriousness to give the maximum benefits to students. It cannot be a half-hearted attempt and students of the second shift must be made to feel at home. If they get the opportunity, some among them are definitely going to rival the best of the other shift. Such a competitive spirit in learning will surely be a bonus.