

# Pvt schools, univs charge fees at sweet will

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PRIVATE schools, colleges and universities charge exorbitant tuition fees from students.

The English medium schools face the allegations of charging high tuition and other fees from the learners.

The same allegation

is faced even by private schools which get the money to pay teachers' full pay and perks from the government's 'monthly payment order' better known as MPO.

Parents complained that these institutions 'virtually fleece them' with the government turning a blind eye.

They said that the gov-

ernment was totally indifferent in putting in place the guidelines for the charging the fees by the privately run institutions.

The government also keeps no tabs on these institutions, said helpless parents.

In the absence of well defined guidelines on the

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issues, said education officials, they cannot interfere when the private institutions charge high tuition fees or increase them at sweet will.

It is the responsibility of the government to determine the tuition fees charged by the private institutions, said professor emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury.

Parents have nowhere to seek redress when they are

compelled to pay the fees at high rates, he said.

Parents said that the private schools show thumbs to the admission fees set by the government each year.

Framing the guidelines to be followed by private schools in fixing tuition fees is under progress, said secondary and higher education department's director Alias Hossain.

Education ministry ad-

ditional secretary M Helaluddin said that file work to amend the Private Universities Act had begun to empower the government to determine tuition fees charged by private universities.

Approximately 97 per cent of over 91 lakh secondary school students go to private schools.

The private universities provide education to 58 per cent of 5.62 lakh university

students. This estimate excludes the students of National University and Open University, according to BANBIES and University Grants Commission.

Education ministry officials were unable to say the number of students who attend English medium schools.

Several schools increased the tuition fees by two times in January.