

Primary Education System

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There is no denying the fact that Primary Schools under private management contribute a lot to accommodate a large number of children falling under the age group of 5-10 years. Closing of such schools, because most of them do not fulfill the basic requirements of elementary education or do not adhere to principles of education will not only raise a hue and cry by the effected but will create a situation which members of public can well imagine.

Once their need and existence is justified the responsibility of the authority or machinery who can formulate and implement corrective measures comes under question. Does this authority ensure before granting permission to open a new school that the person or the group taking up the serious responsibility of imparting basic education or laying the foundation of future learning is fully aware of the significance of the job? Do they have necessary professional qualification to do so? Even after an institution gets started does any authority supervise the performance or day to day work of such establishments?

FOREIGN MEDIUM

The yardsticks to measure the standard of a school could ever be:—Foreign medium of instructions? Handsome amount of tuition fee? Enlistment of over qualified teaching staff? Use of large number of text books? Use of unnecessary number of exercise books? Over burden of home task? Certainly not.

Good formal education is certainly the result of good ton management at schools. But this is not the only contributory factor. Vital role is played by the teaching staff. Fortunately there is good supply of educated ladies (for primary education female teachers being preferred) in cities. But it has to be clearly understood and realized that a highly qualified person is not essentially a good tutor. An elementary school teacher needs skill aptitude desire devotion love for the learner lots of imagination creation ability, pleasant personality etc. in addition to academic qualifications.

TEACHING STAFF

A team of good teaching staff is a blessing for any school management. This team is not always obtained ready made. This can be prepared and team work spirit development. With proper guidance mutual understanding pleasant working condition and environment and effective communication within an institution such a team can be built up. Motivation recognition and appreciation of any good work done job satisfaction incentive for higher standard of performance opportunities for self education and improvement of required skills (on the job) are a must for self development of a teacher. A teacher's knowledge and experience grows with the child. A lady who takes teaching just like any other job does not do justice to her profession. A teacher's job especially of a primary school teacher is very demanding. Persons who really want to "teach should become teachers. Teaching should

never be made a stop-gap job or a pastime when one has nothing else to do. Private schools should resist the temptation to employ teenagers who speak fluent English and come to teach the tiny tots just to earn some pocket money. They are doing the greatest harm. They do not have the desire or mental maturity to handle a child or lay firm foundation of future learning. When teaching, one does not spoon feed, one shows the way how to learn of acquire knowledge.

The management of private schools is faced with the problem of ever changing teaching staff. This is very harmful not only for the school but for the child too. This aspect should be taken into consideration by all concerned. A teacher should be employed for at least one full academic year. There are many reasons for that. But mention of only two will be made here. The first reason being the child himself. A child takes time to adjust and accept a new person or

a teacher. The teacher and taught relationship has to be the best for effective learning. The Second reason being the course contents. A years programme needs planning. An academic year is divided in terms. Each term needs monthly and weekly breakdown of syllabus. For good results each term requires evaluation at the end. Now if the

Md. K. HOSAIN (4) 25-85 same person is not available for planning and evaluation can anything sound be expected?

METHOD OF EDUCATION

Another important factor is the method. Private schools are at an advantageous position to device and use novel and interesting methods to impart elementary education. They have resources to bring in varied opportunities to supplement text book knowledge. Experience of children can be enriched in very inexpensive ways. Their knowledge can be related to the environment they live in e.g. Children can be taken out on roads in small groups to teach traffic rules and understanding the traffic signals.

They can walk to any nearby open space for nature observation. They can be kept aware of city happenings by talking about those regularly.

They can have small picnics in school premises.

They can frequently be engaged in dramatization for self expression.

Their writings can appear in school notice boards.

They can be taken to visit places of interest.

Schools remain closed on national or religious days. Their celebrations can be made before or after the holiday.

SYSTEM OF EDUCATION

While talking about methods and private school, one is reminded of kindergartens. There exists an unfavourable attitude amongst many about K.G. Schools. I think this misgiving can be removed if we know that the "Kindergarten" is a system of education a gift of the famous educationist Froebel's deliberations. It has nothing to do with 'English' as medium. Any Kindergarten school can be run by keeping mother tongue as medium of instruction of the

institution. It is a recognised fact that teaching using mother tongue as medium is always preferable and makes the learning more effective and easier.

Any good form of formal education will require participation of parents. This is an important role. The involvement and interest of mothers in their children's education is beneficial in many ways. In our society, neither the schools encourage it nor the parents insist on it. A mother's involvement helps an institution. When in close contact she appreciates more the problems of the school. She is also able to present guardian's side of the picture to the management. An educated mother may become useful during absence of a regular teacher. She can be utilised as an extra guardian when taking children out. School and parents both unitedly can work for the welfare of the child. Due to this mutual understanding mothers can coach their children on the same line as the schools do at home and can easily do away with private tutors another menace & quite a popular one.

CORRECTIVE MEASURES

While talking about corrective measures for private schools do we leave our government run primary schools in their woeful situation? Majority of the population is at the mercy of these schools. It is high time that some drastic action is taken and healthy change is brought. Only finding out remedial measures will not do. It needs immediate action.

A private school is certainly not a purely commercial concern. Profit for the management will be there but not at the cost of deforming the foundation or weakening the base of education.

Private schools need standardisation. Common syllabus course contents and text books are to be introduced. They can not be left to function at their own sweet will. If left the effected soul will be the innocent child our future.