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English Teaching In Colleges

Sir,

The current decision of the government to introduce English as a compulsory subject at all academic levels is highly praiseworthy and will surely meet the present need for learning English in our country. English as an international language and its importance in the present day cannot be denied. While we, the English teachers of government colleges in Bangladesh endorse and welcome the inclusion of English as a compulsory subject, we are also facing the following problems relating to it.

(I) According to the present staffing pattern, there are four teachers in every department in a college having HSC and degree classes. Some colleges having only HSC classes contain less number of teachers. When these colleges opened degree sections, the number of posts did not increase in proportion to the number of teachers. In the new system besides HSC, all degree classes have English as a compulsory subject. Moreover, many colleges now have honours classes in as many as ten to fifteen subjects. All the students of the honours classes will also have to sit for English examination as a compulsory one. As a result the number of classes to be taken by the limited English teachers has become very big. Number of posts for English teachers in every degree and honours teaching college should be increased and appointments to the new posts should be completed as early as possible. Otherwise the very object of the scheme of learning English will be in vain.

(II) Most of the government colleges have been nationalised by the government from time to time. Among these colleges many do not have proper library facilities. As a result, both teachers and students suffer for want of adequate books and other teaching materials.

(III) Fresh English teachers who join colleges are not trained teachers. As they do not have any pre-service training in teaching, they are not able to teach properly in the classes. It is, therefore, advisable that orientation and training in subject (English) teaching should succeed every teacher joining a college.

It will be highly appreciated if the above facts are taken into consideration by the authority concerned and make the learning and teaching of English in our colleges practical and useful.

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