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Medical college for whom?

The latest announcement regarding the setting up of two more medical colleges (one in the heart of metropolis which already boasts of three major medical institutions) should apparently be sufficient to satisfy one about the willingness of the planners to ensure proper health care. But close view on the health sectors reveals that the announcement has come at a time when the already existing eight medical colleges of the country are suffering from acute shortage of teachers and other amenities highly essential for medical education. Students are often found abstaining from classes on protest against such shortages.

Here it may be mentioned that the teacher-student ratio in these institutions is far below the international standard. The

number of seats in these institutions has been raised whimsically without increasing the teaching staff & other necessities. As a result standard of medical education has deteriorated to a great extent. That is why 70% of our M.B.B.S. Doctors fail in the qualifying examination of Great Britain (British Medical Journal, 1974) and what is more shocking is that the inefficient medical education has made our doctors to fail in the most important test of rural health centre — such as management of simple surgical cases like fracture & cyst, a bit complicated delivery of baby and the treatment of other common diseases of rural Bangladesh.

Under the circumstances when quantities are taken care of and not qualities, reforms should be taken up in the already existing medical colleges to produce physicians of quality. Establishment of two more medical colleges would not serve the greater

purpose of improving the health condition of the common people though it might create a few posts for our metropolitan based superspecialists. This money could be properly utilised to improve the conditions of the sorrowful state of the peripheral medical units & bring out a drastic reform in the existing medical colleges keeping view the changing role of the present day physicians of the third world countries, who are no more to be a mere clinicians but to act as a teachers, organizers, supervisors & consultants to a team of auxiliaries.

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