

## Education Policy And Education

Most parents want their children to receive an education. Most also want the best education their money can buy, for the free standard education we talk about is yet to be on offer in our corner of the world. However as there is a long felt need to improve standards as standards plummet to a new low, people are becoming impatient with the system and more are now sending their children to other schools as they consider government schools to be not worth their while.

In other words, if the government wants to salvage its education programme, there is an urgent need to upgrade the standard of teaching if Bangladesh wants to have a place in the world in the coming century. Most now put their hopes in the new education policy which all educational institutions are required to follow for a uniform syllabus as recommended by the National Curriculum and Text Book Board and the government could streamline learning. What this syllabus will be is not clear but there is considerable hope it will be able to solve the current malaise in education.

As parents generally want more for their children than they had, it is natural for parents to look elsewhere if they do not find what it is they are looking for. For people today are prepared to spend more for education which means for the middle classes at least, the English medium Kindergartens and tutorials. Then there is the question of fees charged by these private English medium schools. They are much too high and not in keeping with the people's ability to pay. Another worry about the high fees charged by schools is that it encourages a system of selective schooling which is not conducive to social uplift.

The question before us now is how are we to go about raising the level of our education? To keep our eyes closed to a malaise as though it does not exist will do us no good and we know it will harm our future as a nation. As this will be tantamount to idiocy, we cannot refuse to take responsibility for education in our state schools any more than we can refuse to take responsibility for the schools our children attend, for a uniform standard of education is a constitutional right. But with classrooms too large to provide an adequate education for each child, this is one injustice that should be within our means of ameliorating, for over-crowding in classes is an injustice to both the parent and the child and to the nation too.

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