



No admission chances for 88 per cent HSC passouts face bleak future

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More than 88 per cent of the HSC pass-outs this year will be refused entry to higher education in the general universities, agriculture, engineering and medical courses.

Experts suggested creation of more facilities for higher education by increasing the enrolment capacity and some of them, however, suggested to make the higher education selective.

According to the HSC results announced last week, a total of 1,31,031 candidates came out successful. Of them 12,488 students were placed in the first division and another 91,380 were placed in the second division.

After completion of their Higher Secondary Examination students can pursue, in accordance with their ability and aptitude, higher education in Bachelor's degree courses in the universities, engineering, agriculture, medical and degree level colleges.

According to an expert in the Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (BANBEIS) our four general universities can accommodate about 12,000 students in the first year honours classes in different courses.

Eight medical colleges in the country can accommodate only 1200 students in the first year of MBBS course, while the Engineering University and four engineering colleges can admit about 1400 students in the first year. The Agricultural University and Agricultural col-

leges can accommodate another 1100 students in the first year.

The higher education sector covering engineering, medical, agriculture and general education in the universities and their affiliated degree colleges can accommodate 16 to 18 thousand students in honours and degree courses according to experts.

Generally, one third of the HSC pass-outs drop out from education process and the remaining two-third try their future for higher education.

According to experts, about 90 thousand students will vie for higher education this year. They will be joined by another few thousand candidates who failed to get themselves admitted to universities last year.

At this situation, there is no other alternative to increase the facilities for higher education to accommodate more students, said DR. Abu Hamid Latif Director, Institute of Education and Research (IER), Dhaka University.

He suggested to increase the enrolment capacity of the exist-

ing institutions and introduction of double shift.

He also suggested for media assistance to address more students in class rooms, off campus programme and open university curriculum in the country. Numbers of existing universities and other institutions of higher education must be increased without delay, he said.

He said, education is a basic human right and the responsibility must be borne entirely by the government.

On the contrary, an expert in the Education Ministry told the Times that government should not carry on subsidy for higher education for a long time. He called for private investment in higher education sector.

He said government should bear the responsibility of higher education for selected students. The affluent guardians should go for higher education for their wards on payment at the private level institutions.

The Education Ministry in its recent policy plan has called for shifting the emphasis of education on science and technical subjects to suit the present need of the country.

An Education Ministry expert pointed out that degrees in liberal arts had fewer employment opportunities in the country. It only increased unemployment problems.

He suggested introduction of community education programme for the SSC and HSC pass-outs and thus minimize pressure on higher education. It would also qualify them to the employment market and for self-employment, he said.