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School Admission

Every year when January comes we realise the shortage of schools. Frantic parents and guardians are seen rushing to get their children admitted to some prestigious institution.

Many schools take advantage of this situation and make a fortune by just selling admission forms. Reportedly a well-known girls' school of Dhaka sold 1200 forms for 300 seats, and a boys' school is reported to have sold four thousand forms for 160 seats. While another English medium school of Chittagong sold two thousand admission forms for about one hundred seats in its Nursery, and Class I.

Every year the problem of admission in schools is becoming acuter. Though there has been an increase in the number of schools the growth of schools has not been proportional to the growth of population. In Chittagong there are about sixty thousand school-going children. In the capital there are about three times the number in Chittagong. But there are not enough schools to cater to the needs of the school-going population.

Another reason for this rush is that parents try to admit their children into schools which have good results in SSC exams. There are many schools which have not yet built up a reputation. Here children can be admitted any time of the year. Many seats lie vacant in them, but guardians tend to avoid them.

Reputed schools are in an advantageous position. Large donations can buy a seat for a student who could not pass the admission test. The rate of donation is said to vary from Taka five thousand to Taka thirty thousand.

Children of the middle or lower income group cannot get themselves admitted into these schools. This is creating two distinct classes of school children—the reputed schools with affluent children and the ordinary schools with children of ordinary background.