

On Cadet College

Mamun-ur-Rashid

28th April was the 29th foundation anniversary of Faujdarhat Cadet College. It was also the 29th anniversary of Cadet College education system in Bangladesh. From April 1958 to April 1987 Faujdarhat Cadet College has completed 29 years of its service to the nation. After some lovely years she had many others to give campaign including a girls' cadet college at Mymensingh there are nine cadet colleges in our country.

It obviously proves that Cadet College education system plays a role in the educational arena. Yet even today there are perhaps some very significant misgiving in public mind about this type of education. It is the blunt truth that when the young cadets appear in the TV screen for debate on general knowledge competition people i.e., audience get very much impressed by them. In the Board examinations the cadets percentage of pass ranges from 99 per cent to 100 per cent and the top positions. Now, questioning may arise who are in the merit list they occupy those boys? So far my experience is concerned cadet colleges are not meant for the sons of rich people, though many a

person think it to be like that. In 1974 when I was from 21st batch of students to join Faujdarhat Cadet College of the 55 boys of our class, so far I remember only 10 of us paid the full monthly dues and a few were absolutely free. Same was the case with other classes, but all the boys were entitled to same facilities. Merit was the only criterion for admission and the cadet's monthly dues was fixed according to his guardian's income. The most brilliant boy of the class would have to pay the full amount if he came from a rich family, whether the readers are of the same view with me I don't know but truth is that cadet colleges have more or less befit the poor and lower class families more than others. Statistics will show that majority of the students have studied in the cadet college with a very little amount of money owing to their backward economic position. The scenario may have changed a little by now, but that should not be very significant.

The allegation that an enormous sum of money is used for cadet colleges is also not quite correct particularly from the point of view of its net result are the return that we get from

these colleges which is hardly comparable with others. (And I do believe that in the present situation of the country it is the best). Being totally residential cadet colleges do need more money than other institutions but not a single furling of it is wasted. But unfortunately in most other institutions lack of discipline, academic atmosphere, irregularities in admission and examinations, poor standard of teaching and other chronic problems make the students' future dependent more on their own efforts rather on their institutions and the teachers. How many classes are held there in a year is also a matter to be noted. By spending more fund this cannot be corrected of improvise for it needs change in the basic scenario as well as planning. Classes in cadet colleges are regular and curriculum is completed in time.

The allegation that cadets are culturally Westernised is also not correct. Observance of 'Paheela Baishakh' 26th March, 16th December, 21st February, commemorating the death or birth anniversary of various poets and personalities and writings on the occasion would prove critics wrong. Using spoon, fork and knife should not be

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just scoffed as a part of Western culture because not only in the socialist Russia or China in many other smaller countries of both Western and Eastern hemispheres also people do not use their hands while eating and that is hygienic. Same the cane with using neck ties etc. Actually it is the patriotism and mental outlook of a person that is important to us or in other words we should ensure that so-called foreign elements are not nurtured on our soil. Kindergartens are the places where it is done but our critics do not focus on that.

Of the roughly 1,200 ex-students of Faujdarhat Cadet College as many as seven embraced martyrdom in the War of Liberation and many other received awards for gallantry.

So far the present situation of our country is concerned the cadet colleges could be turned to the need of the nation in a better way through con-

structive criticism and suggestions. It has already been said that cadet colleges ensures harmonious development of mind and body to its pupils and imparts all kinds of education and training necessary to equip the citizens of the present struggling world.

I do feel that it engages significant amount of additional funds, but in a country where lacs and crores are being wasted or misappropriated in the unproductive sectors and through corruption, there budgeting a little more grants to raise the standard of education to benefit the nation cannot be considered wasteful. Moreover, we are not for cadet colleges only, we, of course, support the campaign for allocating more and more fund to the development of education as well as make education free for all. But at present where the standard is concerned are stand for cadet colleges.