

Parents' Role In The Education Of Their Wards

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THE problem of education in Bangladesh has assumed a serious proportion. In other words, the standard of education has deteriorated seriously and the rate of students' failure in examinations has increased manifold. As such, the problem appears to be a Herculean one, for the educationist and social thinkers. They are reportedly trying best to find out an effective solution thereto. But, we should also remember that our guardians and parents can play a positive role in helping to achieve a rapid progress of their wards' education.

In many cases parents and guardians contribute much towards our failure in identifying the practical problems which respective students face in their studies. These problems are thus often left unsolved and thus the result is inevitably shocking.

Our guardians and parents meet at the school premises on certain special days of the year. And, of course, those days are the days when they happen to be there to get their wards admitted or to request the head of the institution to promote their wards who have cut a sorry figure in the examination. That's all. But, in fact, this must never end. It is accepted that parents and guardians are awfully busy with their respective job and occupation and consequently most of them can seldom pay attention to their wards' studies. They have no time, they do not even think it necessary or find time to count their wards' schooling days or to look over the progress reports. It may be noted minus the weekly and other holidays and seasonal vacation periods and the days the students absent themselves from their classes for natural calamities like flood, cyclone etc. and also strikes and hartal due to political unrest, teachers have roughly six months for the purpose of imparting education to the pupils in the school premises. Moreover, out of this six months, students remain in the schools only for six hours approximately every day. To sum up the situation we can say that students spend the lion's share of their most valuable time at their homes and abodes under the care, and direct control of the parents. Now, if the

guardians and parents do not communicate with teachers from time to time about the progress of studies, attendance, good manners of the students, the ultimate results will be disappointing. On other hand, it is not easy for the teachers to visit the homes and abodes of their students to come in contact with the progress of studies of them as they like different places.

We should know that by nature young minds are very inquisitive and for this inquisitiveness they are always restless and they always possess extra-energy with them. It is, so, a great task to control and to adjust the young mind with the new problems and situation. As a result, they do not like to remain confined within the four walls of the school buildings for hours together. So they always wait for an easy chance to get themselves out from the school premises avoiding the hard and fast rules of the authority. For example, of one student, fails to prepare the home-task or the lesson due to some unavoidable reason at home for a day he tries to get rid of the punishment of the subject teacher with the easy way of remaining absent from the school and playing on the way. And thus he returns home in due time. After one or two days, he may come to school with leave application (where the rule of submitting application is followed) with the signature of some one. A class teacher, who deals with at least 50 students at a time fails to detect the real causes of absence. We have seen a lot of students, especially slow learners, do not show their progress reports of the examinations to their guardians or parents, rather they return the same to the school with false signatures of their parents.

Sometimes they become unruly due to the heavy pressure of school work or due to respective family troubles. A large number of students become indifferent to their lessons for the various troubles in the families. If the guardians/parents keep

regular contact with the teachers of the respective schools, various problems can be sorted out for the better.

It is a matter of great shock to note that many guardians do not feel the importance of their coming to school to discuss the problems of their wards, in spite of letters of request, sent to them from school authorities. Even their attendance in various school functions such as annual Milad Mahfil, annual sports prize distribution ceremony etc. is poor, whereas all of them are duly invited. So, the teachers get a very poor scope to discuss the problems of the students and thus their drawbacks and limitations remain undiscussed and unidentified.

Moreover, some students have some sorts of domestic problems, which they fail to express to others or adjust and the guardians also due to their heavy engagement/business overlook those problems for adjustment. Now, these kinds of domestic problems adversely affect the young mind to a great extent and thereby they cannot devote themselves to their studies seriously. If the teachers of the concerned school could know and understand these problems, they could be of great help to the parents and the students also in working out some solutions thereto. So, cooperation and communication between the parents and teachers can foster the development of the students.

In our society so many innocent young souls go astray due to carelessness of their parents, who simply think that school teachers are capable enough to sort out the problems of their wards and help mature their wards' latent talent. But the guardians and parents do not remember that their wards are beyond the reach of teachers during much of the academic years and during much of the day, and they come from different parts of the town.

Now, if we look at the educational system of the advanced countries like the U.S.A., U.K., France, Ger-

many, Japan etc. we see how alert the guardians there are to the progress of their wards. They do not hesitate to visit their wards' institution off and on and take necessary steps for all-round development of their wards. Even, there are parents-teachers association (PTA) in every institution in those countries, for which the number of unsuccessful students is very small. In those countries, teachers and guardians sit together for hours and discuss various problems, both individual and common. Sometimes guardians holding high ranking position in different establishments of the country visit their wards' school and deliver lectures to keep students alert and aware of the current events and the affairs of the country. Such programmes provide great inspiration to the teachers and the students.

In view of the situation here it is suggested that the school authorities may take the following steps which are likely to bridge the communication gap between the teachers and the guardians and thus effect an improvement in the standard of our education:

- 1) Binding rules may be framed for parents and guardians to collect the progress report of their wards from the school.
- 2) If any guardian fails to collect the same, 25 marks will be deducted from the total marks obtained by a student as a penalty and thus the students will ensure that their guardians go to the school.
- 3) School authorities should also give enough chance and time to the guardians for bilateral talk.
- 4) Letters of request through post offices or bearer of the school are to be used for the purpose of bringing guardians to the school premises with a view to solving any serious problems of wickedness, truancy and copying in the examination hall by any students. Now, if the guardians pay no heed to the request and demand-note of the school authorities, T.C., will be issued to the students in serious cases.

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