

NEW ADMISSION PROCEDURE

The problem of admission in the educational institutions right from the kindergarten to the highest levels has been plaguing the guardians. The main cause is the limited number of seats and the problem is getting acuter everyday with the rise in the demand consequent on the increase in population and interest in education. Some people began to exploit the situation to make money. There has been mushroom growth of institutions at all levels and most of these are operated on crude commercial basis.

But it does not end there. These institutions exploit the students in different ways. The process begins with sale of admission form at exorbitant prices and often those selected for admission have to pay heavy amounts as what they call donations. And there are frightful exercises even before the beginning. The game at this stage is played by the coaching centres. The students run to those centres immediately after they have finished with one public examination. Those who want to get into a prestigious institution are left with practically no alternative.

The records of some of the coaching centres are also impressive. A sizeable number of the students who take the coaching at these centres get admission in the preferred institution. If one enquires one may find the link between the teachers at the coaching centre and the institutions in which the admission is sought.

It is unfortunate that we could not streamline the admission procedure all these years. We didn't really seem to have had the will. But then the records of our public examinations aren't also such that could inspire confidence. In such circumstances, the admission test held by the Engineering University had for a long time been the ideal. The tests held by most other institutions could not come upto that level. In consequence the students suffered and guardians foot the bills of the quarters that came up to play the intermediary role.

The government have at long last come up with a solution. A meeting presided over by Education Secretary and attended by the chairman and members of the University Grants Commission (UGC), Vice-Chancellors/heads of the universities and principals of degree colleges in the metropolis decided to do away with admission tests at the colleges and other educational institutions of the same level. The admissions will be on the basis of the marks obtained in the public examinations held by the Education Boards. These institutions would notify their seat capacity in advance and select candidates for the same and a waiting list equivalent to 50 per cent of the capacity. The students would apply in prescribed forms and the institutions would make the selections within 90 days of the announcement of the results.

The meeting recommended the same principles for admission in the medical and engineering colleges and all the universities. The UGC will prepare a coordinated schedule for selecting students for admission in consultation with the Vice-Chancellors and the Director General of the Health Services.

Though the new admission rules would benefit the students, surprisingly it is them that have come out with agitational programmes. It is not difficult to identify the quarters that stage-managed the agitations. There is no denying the utility of either the clinics or the coaching centres. But it is often the same person who treats patients in the hospital and the clinic and the same person teaches in the educational institution and the coaching centre. And in consequence the patients in the hospital and the students in the regular classes are neglected.

That's how both treatment of the patients and education of the students are becoming expensive and the people are opting in increasing numbers for facilities abroad, particularly the neighbouring country. In the process the nation becomes the loser. The situation is untenable.

The complaint that the colleges were not notified in due time about the new admission procedure seems correct. The whole issue also needs a thorough study for identifying the causes of the malaise and to find the effective and appropriate ways for stemming the rot.