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Financing Dhaka University Students

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DHAKA University is the first of universities in this country, which was established in 1921. At present the total number of students of this university is 22,864; with male and female students respectively 15,876 and 6,988 (Dhaka University, 1994: 409). In 1977 the total number of students was 12,076, where male and female students were respectively 9,055 and 3,021 (BBS, 1979: 415). The total number of students of this university has become almost double within the last eighteen years. In 1977 the ratio of male and female students were 3:1. But within these eighteen years the enrolment of female students is not hopeful.

On the other hand, it is a fact that students of Dhaka University are politically very conscious. They have played a significant role in different types of national issues. Ex-students of this university have also been leading in different sectors of the country. For this it has been observed, that students have a tendency to take more interest in higher studies from this university.

The guardians are also more interested in Dhaka University. But the guardians of most of the students undergoing higher studies in Dhaka University belong to middle and lower middle class most of whom are in a deplorable financial state. As most of

the guardians remain in tension about the educational expenditure of their wards one should know the amount of average monthly expenditure, pattern of expenditure and influencing factors of expenditure of the students of this university and their guardians monthly average income. The total number of female students are less than half that of male students in Dhaka University. For this, it is essential to know whether the monthly expenditure of the female students is more than male students or whether there is any relationship between the expenditure as per gender. It is also important to know whether there is any relationship between expenditure of students and income of guardians.

My study showed that most of the male and female students belong to the group spending Tk. 1000-2000. However, in the higher group of monthly expenditure (Tk. 2000-3000), the female students are dominant. Here 20% and 25% are respectively male and female students. It is interesting that the monthly average expenditure (Mean) of both the male and female students are same, amounting Tk. 1250. The median of expenditure of male and female students was calculated as Tk. 1061.90 and Tk. 1500 respectively. So, here it is seen that the median expenditure

of female students is more than that of male students.

Regarding the expenditure of entertainment of friends, 56.66% of male and 45% of female students are in the lower expenditure group of Tk. 0-200, and 16.67% of male and 20% of female students are spending no money on this head. The difference in entertainment expenditure between male and female students seems to be insignificant.

It was also seen that 23.34% of male and 5% of female students are in the guardians income group upto Tk. 5000. On the other hand 20% of male and 45% of female students are in the guardians highest income group (Tk. 10,000-15,000). 56.66% of male and 50% of female students are in the guardians' income group of Tk. 5000-10,000. The monthly average income of guardians of male and female students are Tk. 7333.33 and Tk. 9500 respectively. The median income of guardians of male and female are respectively Tk. 7352.94 and Tk. 9500. This analysis clearly indicates that the guardians of female student belongs relatively to the higher income bracket than the guardians of male students.

It is also found that 36.66% of male students depend on their own financing through tuition and part-time employment. 63.33% of male

students are getting money from their guardians. But all the female students are getting money from their guardians.

There was no great difference in the monthly average total expenditure between the male and female students of Dhaka University. Yet, only those guardians were interested to send their daughters for higher study in Dhaka University, whose monthly income level were very high. On the otherhand, guardians belonging to relatively lower income group seem to be interested in sending their sons to acquire higher education from this university. It was also seen that one third of the male students main source of financing was tuition and self-employment. Whereas all the female students were getting money from their guardians, reflecting the full dependence on their families regarding financial support.

A large number of female students cannot achieve their dream of higher study in Dhaka University due to financial constraints. Different types of parttime jobs should be created to solve the financial problems of female students. The Different socio-economic organisations should come forward to offer scholarships for the meritorious but financially insolvent female students at the level of higher education.