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Accommodation scarcity Female freshers of DU in misery

The female freshers of Dhaka University are in misery for acute scarcity of accommodation, coupled with strict rules, in the girl student dormitories, reports UNB.

A good number of girl students, hailing from outside the capital, are yet to come to attend their first year classes which began on August 3 due to the accommodation problem.

Campus sources said some of the freshers, failing to enjoy their new classes, went back to their village homes.

Every student entering the university—male or female—is attached with one of the 14 halls of the university.

But only three halls are for the female who constitute 40 per cent of the total of 28,000 students of the university. The rest 11 are for the male students.

Every year a total of 4,000, including nearly 2,000 female students, are admitted into the university. Most of them come from outside the city.

A little number of the girls reside with their relatives staying in Dhaka while the rest have to come to the university depending only on the three residential halls.

But due to lack of adequate seats and strict rules in the female dormitories, the female freshers have to face serious trouble in managing accommodation.

The rules are so rigid that they cannot even enter into the halls being the 'attached students'. On the other hand, the seat-allotment process is very lengthy.

Only four or five seats of each female hall are allotted for first year honours students every year. As a result, most of them coming from outside usually stay with their seniors.

Meanwhile, DU authorities recently decided not to allow students who are not allottees to stay in any hall.

Defying the rules, sources said, outsiders affiliated with different student organisations are staying in different male halls. But the rule is being strictly followed in the female dormitories. A female student from Narail district narrated her sad story to UNB as she is in a fix facing the problem.

"I have no relatives in Dhaka.... I have nowhere to stay even at night," she said, adding "I would never have taken admission into Dhaka University if I had an idea of the sufferings beforehand."

She alleged that some girls were contacting political leaders to solve their problem.

Another girl from Nilphamari, who got admitted into Sociology Department, has been forced to stay in a city hotel with his father several days as she failed to get accommodation in a residential hall.

Inmates said even if any fresher goes into the hall to stay at night, the authorities force her to go out. Some alleged that the hall authorities behaved harshly when they went to contact them for a permission.

When contacted, Shamsunnahar Hall provost Prof Sultana Shafi said they had nothing to do in this regard.

"In the female halls it is impossible for a human being to stay with such problems," she said, adding "at least two female halls should be built immediately to solve the problem."

Prof Shafi said every year they inform and request the university authorities to solve the problem immediately, but the problem is yet to be resolved.

When his attention was drawn, Vice Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury told UNB that the university authorities had already planned to construct two residential halls, one for the male and another for the female.

To solve the problem, he said, necessary papers were sent to the government for quick consideration.

"I think session jam is one of the reason behind the accommodation problem."