

Edn quality of English medium schools not up to mark

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English medium schools are economically viable. But in providing educational services including recreations and sporting they are lagging behind. In the name of promising education, they are doing brisk businesses. This is mainly because of appointing many low-quality teaching staff.

According to sources, operators of many English medium schools are recruiting teachers of undergraduate and under-HSC background and they are being provided with poor remuneration. This encourages the teachers to go for second option of income—home tutorials while the parents are hiring university students to

help their children learn their difficult textures or do the home work. Education quality of English medium schools in Dhaka is not up to the mark due to teaching inadequacies in the leading schools, said Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor SMA Faiz at a recent seminar. He was speaking as the chief guest at the seminar attended by a group of English daily Editors, including News Today Editor Reazuddin Ahmed and Independent Editor Mahbul Alam echoed the same views and expressed their hopelessness. Financial Express Editor Mozammel Hossain said, "They are charging much but giving less." "To make a mark in English liter-

acy, a standard of syntax of literacy must be introduced", he added.

Civil society thinkers opined that education is the backbone of developments. The future of the middle income groups who are striving for finding destination after 2021 is virtually bleak. To cope with the growing competition of the twenty first century, the home textures as well as teaching must be merged with the latest progress of philology. In the West, the governments and the civil society and charity funds including "Clinton Global Initiative" have been raising funds from the world's rich men like Bill Gates. But in Bangladesh charity money

begged by the NGOs BRAC hardly reaches the poor. Not only that the biggest NGO, World Vision raises charity funds for countries and having a vast age in Bangladesh has been distributing funds in the areas, their education and schemes are failing to support the need of the society.

Newly emerged Nagaril mittee which has been working a prescription for the government stressed the need wide-scale expansion of national programmes across country involving the local

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governments to monitor the activities of the education-providing NGOs.

Meanwhile, teachers complained that although their schools charge more than 80 per cent higher fees from the students than those of public schools, the remuneration packages for them are a meager. This compels many teachers to run unauthorised coaching centres. And the parents take tutors to groom up their children as per the demand of the competitive world.

Since the nineties, English medium schools made a mushroom growth. Most of them are run by commercial men who show hardly any seriousness in improving their teaching quality. Importantly, the leading schools including Scholastica, Mastermind, Maple leaf have wide campuses but in terms of recreational facilities, they are lagging far behind compared to international standards.

Many English medium schools are running on foreign funds. The International donor agencies including the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank and foreign-NGOs are providing funds and peripheral facilities to world-marking the education quality in Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, it is learnt that most of the teachers in the English medium schools hold very poor academic quality as well as expertise. This is for the fact that they are politically appointed.

There is good number of English medium schools in the newly grown residential areas including Uttara Model Town, Banasree housing projects. Education in those schools is not fit for grooming up a child so that he/she can compete internationally. Only in the British Council, schooling is still dominating in the field of imparting diversified education. The diversified education programmes of the foreign schools

facilities which are essential for the students. Some of the local schools are following the philosophy of Tagore who had preached for learning Bangla first to mature their literacy in English.

Meanwhile, the Education Ministry allowed to form association of Kindergartens in the city. But the ministry did not see how much capable these schools to prepare the kids. Most shocking is that below SSC or below higher secondary level teachers are teaching in the schools in the city. Even the President and General Secretary or the leaders of the association hold very poor academic base. Practically, they are mentoring money in the name of providing schooling.

Presently there are more than 27,000 Kindergarten schools in the city. Their number was only 12,000