

NCTB Experts!

Sir,

A lot has been written criticising the English text book of intermediate class which has been included in the syllabus since the year 2001. A group of experts was selected by the NCTB to compile a suitable book for the students of intermediate class so that they can master the four skills in English namely reading, writing, speaking and listening. But the experts have produced a book just by collecting some information from different newspapers of home and abroad. These experts were sent to some English speaking countries so that they can present us a practical English book.

Many incomplete, uninteresting and vague items have been included in the book. Language structures in some places are tough, over complex and unnecessarily hard for the students to have hardly any scope for developing their four skills. Moreover, some wrong information is included which I identified in my earlier writings. I don't know whether they invited the attention of the authorities concerned.

Recently another wrong information or discrepancy has been identified. In lesson six of unit twelve Stephen Hawkings is said to have been the victim of Gehrig's disease. The name of this disease has not been found in any medical dictionary, nor in the Oxford dictionary also. Dr. Abdul Azim, Associate Professor and head of the department, transfusion medicine, Chittagong Medical College brought the fact to the knowledge of the chairman of NCTB but of no avail. What does the disease mean? No explanation has been given. How will the teachers explain it to the students?

Lesson three of the same unit tends to throw a little light on the life of Rabindranath Tagore. In the third passage a line goes like this, "young Tagore joined London University, where he attended Henry Morley's lectures in English literature and read Religio Medici and Shakespeare with him." What does this Religio Medici mean or signify? There must have been a clear explanation of this term.

I consulted the Oxford dictionary but failed. May be it is in the Encyclopedia but the writers should have been aware of the fact that with some exceptions the colleges of our country don't have the Encyclopedia. Rajuk College is one of the most resourceful college of the country which does not have an encyclopedia. Then what about other colleges?

I have already consulted all the notes and guide books available in the market to find out the meaning of the term but every book has carefully escaped it. My question to the authorities of NCTB is what kind of writers were employed to compile the book who miserably failed to cater to the demand of the students and even teachers. They must have explained all the scientific and vague terms used in the book. They just shirked their duties and compiled the book perfunctorily. NCTB is requested to take these facts into account.

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