

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS in Schools Contributes to Dropout

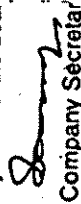
The 29th Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders held at the Conference Room of RDEC Bhaba Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207 on Thursday, September 2, 1991, of this charter has to do with the following business:

## AGENDA

1. Audited Financial Statements of the Company for the year 1990-91 and the Directors' Report thereon.

2. To fix their remuneration and to fix the remuneration of the Chair.

By order of the Board

  
Company Secretary

3. The Transfer Book of the Company will remain closed from Thursday, 27 December, 2007 (both days inclusive) to Friday, 28 December, 2007.

4. The Proxy form duly stamped should be deposited at the General Meeting not later than 48 hours before the time fixed for the meeting. The Proxy form should be deposited at the General Meeting not later than 48 hours before the time fixed for the meeting. The Proxy form should be deposited at the General Meeting not later than 48 hours before the time fixed for the meeting.

১ বাংলাদেশ সরকার

উন্নয়ন বোর্ড

বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কার্যালয়

ডি. ঢাকা-১২১৫

Laila Noor

ical punishments, every teacher should help children fulfill their dreams through love and care. A teacher should express himself in a way so that students consider him safe.

About the adverse impact of punishment, Dr Mohit Kamal, an associate professor of National Mental Health Institute and Hospital, says, "All the children are not equally good in learning. In this case, a teacher should understand the psychology of a student and help him/her accordingly. The trained teachers know this very well. A teacher should realise that a student can't be made to perform by pressure. Such an environment should be created so that the students learn spontaneously."

He feels, "Home or school wherever it might be, it is not right to punish children. A child will have to be made interested in learning. And, this has to be done by helping him, not by punishing. Disciplining rather causes adverse effects. They get scared and lose interest in learning. An escaping tendency grows in them. So, children should be taught in a friendly fashion."

Ibrahim Sobhan, a pioneer of school-based education system, says, "School is the right place of learning. The learners don't want to come to schools if they are not taught in an enjoyable manner. If the environment is not enjoyable, the creativity of children will not flourish. To ensure an enjoyable learning atmosphere for students, friendly behaviour is a must."

About punishing children, a teacher of a remote village, known for his anger, says, "There are only two teachers in our school. And, two of us have to teach about 350 students. Besides, we've to do the official works. We feel tremendous pressure in doing all these things. Therefore, being annoyed, we punish the children if they do not learn their lessons or make noises. We do know it's not right to cane children. But, we've to do that because of the situation."

Most of the teachers do not support corporal punishment. Selina Akhter, the head teacher of Tejgaon Farm Government Primary School, says, "Neither physical nor psychological punishment plays any positive role in a learner's education. The children who receive the love and care of teachers become good citizens in the future."

Ethnic Community Organisation, an NGO in Sylhet, is working to check the dropout of children from primary schools. Its executive director Laxmikanta Singh says, "We simply don't know the statistics as to how many children lose enthusiasm, fail and even drop out due to punishment in the name of disciplining. In addition to the existing one, a separate law should be enacted with provisions for more stringent punishment for those teachers who punish children inhumanly."

Initiatives are underway both at government and private levels to check dropout. The Finance Adviser, in his

budget speech (2007-08), said that works were going on in 11,000 education centres to get the dropout students back to schools. He also said 10,000 teachers would be provided training next year in this regard.

About punishment at schools, Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, the founder of Biswa Sahitya Kendra, says, "Teachers in our country face different types of problem. Their problems need to be resolved. Besides, the processes of making good teachers will have to be applied. We have to keep in mind that torturing children means torturing the future. So, it should be stopped."

Many believe that in order to stop corporal punishment our attitudes towards children need to be changed. Educationists say to stop punishing children first the reasons will have to be detected and efforts to be made to correct those. While recruiting teachers, talent should not be the only criterion for evaluation. Rather, it will have to be seen whether they have the qualities like patience and enthusiasm to be good teachers.

Besides, everybody involved in child education should be made aware of the negative aspects of corporal punishment. It is also essential to exercise and apply the laws and conventions relating to child rights. And to do that, along with the government and private initiatives, people from all walks of life will have to be conscious about it.