

MPO Policy Formulation

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THE government has formed a ten-member committee headed by Prime Minister's Education, Social Development and Political Affairs Adviser to formulate a concrete policy for MPO allocation and enlistment of new educational institutions. As a conscious citizen as well as a teacher with experience of teaching at primary and secondary schools, private and government colleges, and technology universities in various capacities for more than four decades at home and abroad, to comment on and suggest the decision makers on educational aspects should not be considered abnormal.

Recent participation in the International Conference on Open Educational Resources (OER) held 7-10 June 2009 at Maastricht, Netherlands has encouraged me much to criticize and make comments on education resources anywhere. It was a unique event for transition of education from traditional to modern system i.e. shifting face to face education to virtual education. The UNESCO, Commonwealth of Learning and the Open University Netherlands jointly organized the event where senior academics particularly Vice-Chancellors from all over the world were invited to make their comments on different issues. We were given the liberty to make comments and criticize in any language we liked. It is a real freedom of an educator, scientist or researcher. They gave handsome amount in the form of M-2009 Fellowships and hourly remuneration for the criticisms or finding faults or possible hazards in new systems. The comments and suggestions will be further discussed and reviewed at UNESCO Head Quarter soon.

Bangladeshi experts are not different from other countries experts in respect of making faults or mistakes. MPO (monthly payment order) is a part of development in education through educators. A real teacher has the right to enjoy the benefits. So far it is learnt only a certain percentage of schools and colleges are going to be enlisted in the MPO. Who are those lucky teachers? How they will be selected — that is the main question. Two different groups of "Have" and "Have Not" will be created. Some teachers will enjoy better life and for others life will become hell. The school authority of have not group will lose students, teachers and self-confidences. There are instances of teaching for more than ten years without remuneration in schools and colleges in the remote areas. Many institutes are doing tremendous results in the board examinations at general and technical educations. That becomes possible due to sacrifice of the young and energetic teachers who work under guidelines of the founder who is normally well educated. Unfortunately, neither any minister nor adviser has ever visited those institutes. It is really difficult for the decision makers to realize the exact situation without physical visits to the institutes.

We cannot deny that we (at

age of 60) were born in villages and we should not forget local cultures and their sufferings just because of lack of education and ignorance. We should be grateful to them because they produce food for us that enable us to take at luxury hotels or restaurants. They expect some returns at least in education sectors.

Most schools and colleges in the country were born under political auspices, but still there are some institutes that were established by the talents and dedicated people who want to help develop his region or community. There are people who have money as well as wisdom, education, knowledge, skills, honesty and vision. They feel very much for their community or village where he was born. He wants to utilize his talents, skills and vision for upgrading the life style of people through proper and effective education. But in doing so, a platform like school or college becomes essential. A school is composed of students, teachers, rooms or house, chair, bench etc. Even then it is not a full fledged school. It needs affiliation from the government to make their education authentic. That means sincere cooperation from the government becomes very important at this stage. Enlistment of MPO is a part of such activities. The committee members are educated, experienced and aware of the social problems and needs. They will surely give much importance to issues mentioned.

A school or institute is not just a platform to educate and

to give a certificate to students. An institute particularly technical or vocational institute can bring a tremendous change in remote communities. The institute enables them to earn reasonable amount through utilization of technical knowledge which they gain from the institute and from their guardians who are well experienced in local and traditional technologies. There are huge scopes of doing research on the issue and lots to learn from such activities. The ideas are well accepted in international markets or events held at different continents. Such ideas or lessons are very rarely accepted or recognized by the policy makers in the country. As founder of a technical institute in one of the remotest areas that offers very relevant courses for the locality, scopes of studying the people of remote and isolated areas and the government activities towards the society came to notice. Involvement of government in local initiatives was not very satisfactory. Providing sincere cooperation by the government to the locally initiated projects, a tremendous change of development is possible in the rural communities of Bangladesh.

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