

Corruption at 12 per cent

Obstacle to quality education

A new study by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has revealed that the level of corruption in the education sector stands at an estimated 12 per cent. While it is certainly much better than countries in the neighbourhood, with India's 48 per cent and lower than the global average of 17 per cent, there is indeed scope for improvement. According to the report published based on data from 'Global Corruption Barometer-2012', the country has lost over Tk. 700 million (US\$9 million) in the form of petty corruption in one year.

Though we have done better than many countries in limiting corruption in education, the fact remains that such graft adversely affects the quality of education our children are receiving. Given the complexities involved in the education administration and the lack of proper monitoring and evaluation in the system, there exist ample loopholes for graft to take place. Such gaps allow for the collection of undue monies and bribery for placement in educational institutions. Though the well off segment of society may be able to afford such extra payment, the poor and disadvantaged certainly cannot.

Corruption in education also means nepotism in appointment of teachers, money changing hands for gaining admission in institutions, etc. - all of which deprive deserving candidates from entry into the education system. Such practices, we believe are in direct conflict with the rules of fair play and assurance of quality in the field of education.