



What Will Happen To The Students Of AJM Schools?

Schools and madrasahs run by factories and mills were common after partition. Housing colonies were also the norm for providing accommodation to workers and so, housing colonies and schools rapidly grew up within the vicinity of the factories. This was considered good social services and often the mills also paid the salaries of the teachers. One such mill was the Adamjee Jute Mills Ltd (AJM) but with the closure of the mill, presumably, for sound economic reasons. The fact is, it has left behind a trail of destruction for the 6,000 students and teachers of the four secondary schools run by the management. Clearly left in the lurch, these students who were being given free tuition and free books in these schools are now virtually abandoned. All children of workers of the mill, they do not know what will befall them.

The headmaster of the Adamjee High School said the decision by the government to close the mills would jeopardise the future of the SSC, Dakhil and Alim examination candidates of 2003 who belong to his school. The Adamjee Girls' High School, Adamjee Islamic Senior Madrasah and Adamjee Sramik Kalyan High School are in the same position and, as the likelihood of gaining admission elsewhere is slight, what will happen to these children is anybody's guess. When the registration for the students of Class IX has not yet been completed by the Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board, Dhaka, the position of these potential SSC candidates is untenable. The Principal of the Adamjee Islamic Senior Madrasah also held a similar view and expressed his grief over "the bleak future of SSC, Dakhil and Alim candidates".

The student body was obviously in no position to stage a demonstration against the decision of the government to close, not only the mills but the schools as well. But as a serious situation has been created for the innocent students, who have become the victims of this decision, the government should undertake to provide the students with alternatives. So that the children do not feel cheated out of an education. Arrangements must be made to absorb all the 6000 students in various schools around the city and countryside without delay.