

Teacher shortage in local colleges

More recruitment and even distribution needed

IT is worrying to note that colleges outside the capital have been badly suffering from severe teacher shortage while the colleges in Dhaka have surplus. Many of the local colleges do not have teachers for basic subjects like Bangla, English, and Mathematics for years. According to a data, in 329 college-level institutions, 3,474 out of 15,000 posts of college teachers are vacant. This grim picture came out at the Government College Principals' Conference 2016, held on April 30. This discriminatory trend will seriously hinder students' access to quality education in institutions outside the capital.

One of the main reasons behind this uneven distribution of teachers is their unwillingness to work outside Dhaka. The Education Minister, present at the Conference, criticised the teachers saying that almost 80 percent of the teachers visiting the Ministry come with the request to be transferred to Dhaka. We endorse the recommendation that came at the Conference that it should be made mandatory for all the teachers to work outside metropolitan cities for about three years. The government should also give the teachers some incentives encouraging them to stay in local colleges.

Currently, the teacher-student ratio in public colleges is 1: 145 which clearly shows the bleak reality of overburdened teachers and overcrowded classrooms in the colleges. That's why there should be more recruitment of teachers for government colleges. Government can hold special BCS examination for filling this huge gap.