

Admission To School

The picture is quite familiar. Parents, usually mothers leading their children to the renowned schools for admission tests, or frantically looking for their wards amidst a sea of young crowds. Clearly, the rush is at times too heavy to manage. This year, it is no exception. Already a few reputed private schools have completed their formalities for admission. Now is the turn for the government schools and other private schools enjoying high ranking. Nothing wrong with competition when the purpose is to select the very best crop among a huge number of candidates. But the way the whole show is arranged leaves much to be desired. More importantly, the time, money and energy that go behind the preparation for such admission tests should be considered a headache.

That education has been turned into commerce is no longer news. What is however worrying is that even qualifying in admission test is no guarantee for admission. A few schools demand a huge amount of donation from candidates who have come out successful in the test. Also this is an occasion for commercial coaching by teachers of the sought-after schools in particular. No matter how taxing it may be on the young ones, parents would not mind to subject their sons and daughter to the rigorous possible drill. Then the frustration and anguish the failure to qualify an admission test brings cannot be fully fathomed.

An argument that such a consequence is unavoidable looks rather naive. The problem needs to be cured at the root. What we need is the standardisation of education and closing the gaps between and among schools. Why must there be such a yawning gap between two educational institutions imparting education to learners of the same classes or levels? Well, individual brilliance and skill are recognisable factors that may be responsible for setting a standard for particular subjects. But how come an institution get past all others in the race for excellence? According to the demand-supply theory of economics, the highly paid teachers should have delivered the goods. This is however not the case. So there is still something other than the commercial consideration.

No argument that our educational system needs to be changed lock, stock and barrel. It must be up to the demand of the new age. The schools should also look for ways to close the gaps. Let some of them be commercial enough, but the performance must be up to the standard. As for the government-run schools, they must recognise talents but if the education is standardised, students from other educational institutions will not lose much.