

Govt inaction helps coaching centres leak questions

Mohiuddin Alamgir

Due to the government's indifference there has been a mushroom growth of coaching centres facing the allegation of leaking questions of SSC, HSC and other public exams as well as the tests for admission into the universities and medical colleges.

There are allegations that these rogue coaching centres also leak the questions of recruitment tests.

They face the allegation of using high-tech gadgets to provide answers to admission and job seekers while they are sitting in the exam halls.

Repeated demands of academicians to ban the rogue coaching centres fell on the government's deaf ears.

Professor emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury said that the expensive coaching facilities availed by well off families destroyed the level playing field for students from less privileged backgrounds seeking admission for higher education as well as jobs.

Frequent leakage of questions of public examinations destroyed the very purpose of education and evaluation of merit said academicians. Dhaka University vice-

chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique said that guarantees of success given by coaching centres allure students.

He said that such coaching centres are involved with leaking questions of admission tests and other related dubious activities.

'We heard for years that coaching centre would be banned but nothing happened,' he said.

Education minister Nurul Islam Nahid said that though these coaching centres were minting money, 'we failed to put ban them due to various factors.'

He said that the illegal ac-

tivities of coaching centres would be curbed.

An amendment of the Public Examinations (Offences) Act, 1980 is under the government's consideration to incorporate severe punishment to question leakers, Nahid said.

He said at different times that the annual earnings of coaching centres would be Tk 32,000 crore.

According to a Transparency International Bangladesh study of August 63 sets of question papers Primary Education Completion Examination, JSC, SSC and HSC examinations were leaked in last four years.

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that they will sit at 20 centers across the country. About 19.67 lakh students are appearing in the exam while 3.58 lakh in the exams respectively.

Education minister Nurul Islam Nahid at a press b

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2013 showed that an admission seeker from outlying had to spend Tk 43,100 on coaching as well as to cover the expenses for travel and stay in the capital.

It shows that the cost for the other admission seekers hovers around this amount.

The study shows that 93 per cent of admission seekers depend on coaching.

Admission seekers said coaching costs increased sharply in last two years.

Coaching centres publicize exaggerated stories of their successes to allure students, said Arefin.

Serajul Islam Choudhury said that coaching centres grew up in the backdrop of a serious decline in class room teaching.

Recently Rapid Action Battalion arrested seven persons from Ranpur on the allegation of leakage of questions of medical admission tests, five of whom

were teachers or directors of coaching centres.

In 2014, at least 50 persons were arrested from different districts for their alleged involvement with leakage of JSC, SSC, and HSC exams. Among the arrested were teachers and owners of coaching centres.

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