

Teachers use students  
Varsities lack  
common system  
of awarding  
distinctions

DU Correspondent

In the absence of a common numbering system in the public universities, distortions and irregularities are taking place in awarding distinctions in the examinations, university sources said.

This has resulted in a serious problem. Students of particular departments secure first class in high percentage while many brilliant students in other departments fail to get the expected results.

Recently, this issue has been a talk of the time following a massive irregularities in the Political Science Department of Dhaka University (DU). A total of 52 students were awarded first class through serious irregularities and corruption involving some teachers of the department. Investigation committee found the allegations of irregularities and corruption true.

According to sources, the teachers give highest number to their favoured students. They maintain personal relation with their chosen students and use them in work and politics.

An investigation reveals that country's 21 public universities including the Dhaka University have no common formula for evaluation of answer scripts.

According to sources, none got first class in the past 19 years in Philosophy Department of the Dhaka University (DU). One or two first class are awarded in the masters' examination. The scenario in Bangla, English and History Department is the same.

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On the other hand, in the faculties of Arabic, Islamic Studies and Islamic History and Culture, the system is different.

The average scenario in awarding first class in these departments is high. In 2003-04 session, 47 out of 120 students in honours examination and 42 out of 80 students in LMM examination of Law faculty got first class.

At the same session, 30 out of 120 students in Islamic History and Culture, 58 out of 107 students in Islamic Studies Department and 39 out of 110 students in Arabic Department were given first class in masters' examinations.

In 2001-02 session, hundred per cent students got first class in Peace and Conflict Department (14 out of 14) and 52 out of 204 students got first class in Political Science Department. In 2002-03 session, 26 out of 110 students in Public Administration Department, 27 out of 220 students in Social Science Department and 22 out of 110 students in Economics Department got first class.

Prof. Dr. A K M Shahidullah, Chairman, Political Science Department said since there is no specific system in marking the answer scripts, the irregularities are galore.

DU Vice-chancellor Prof. S M A Faiz said that it is not bad that different department awarded more first class. "But no bad intention or practice should not be allowed in this case," he suggested.