

Give children time, teach norms to fight militancy

College, university students urge parents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students from several colleges and universities in Dhaka yesterday called upon guardians, especially job holders, to give more time to their children and teach them humanity, social and religious norms, and values to fight militancy.

Sharing their opinions at a roundtable, they urged the government to promote cultural activities all over the country to keep the youths away from militancy.

The Bangla daily Prothom Alo organised the discussion titled "Gulshan-Shofakia tragedy: What youths are thinking", at its office in the capital.

"Children are not getting enough time from their parents, especially those doing jobs; it is creating a distance between them," said Brac University student Sanjana Zaman.

She said terrorist groups targeted such families. Children with loose family bonding often suffer from frustration, and they do not have role models in front of them, said Dhaka University student Tasmih Tabassum.

They also become vulnerable, she said,

laying stress on teaching social and religious norms in family.

Pointing to Faraaz Ayaaz Hossain, who sacrificed his life to save his friends during the Holey Artisan Bakery terror attack, Tasmih said Faraaz's mother taught him to respect women and humanity, and he showed it.

Another Dhaka University student, Nubia Nurain Khan, however, criticised the parents who teach selfish attitudes to children. "Many parents in our society don't encourage their children to be humane to the needy people," she said.

Omar Shah of Jamia Rahmania Madrasha said today's situation was a result of multiple streams of education.

He called for changing the education system, stressing the need for lessons on humanity and sacrifice.

Mir Rifat Us Saleheen, another student of the institution, said, "Our society and family often do not encourage critical thinking. That's why militants are able to persuade the youths towards militancy through misrepresenting Islam. They get convinced without

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asking questions."

North South University student Syed Muhiit Hasan said it was unfortunate to single out the university just because some of its students appeared to be involved in militancy.

NSU students are creating awareness against militancy, he said.

Several male students said they were struggling to rent houses after the two terror attacks.

Prothom Alo Associate Editor Abdul Quayum moderated the programme.