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Ethics, values edn missing in most schools

Mohiuddin Alamgir | Updated at 02:09am on May 10, 2018

Two-thirds of primary and secondary school do not have acceptable infrastructure, health and hygiene condition to promote learning and inculcate ethics and values among students, shows Education Watch Report 2018 unveiled on Wednesday.

Half of primary, two-thirds of secondary and seven out of ten university students do not look upon teachers as their role models for ethical and moral conduct, said the study titled 'Ethics and Values in School: Capturing the Spirit of Education' launched in capital.

The study prepared by education rights group Campaign For Popular Education also shows that half of the teachers did not perceive themselves as role model for students in ethical and moral conduct.

Speakers at the programme blamed teachers' attitude of business by offering private tuition and coaching centers as well as others moral and ethical degradation as reason for students not taking teachers as their role model.

Principal researcher of the study Manzoor Ahmed, while making the presentation, also said that school experience did not create the opportunity in the lessons and co-curricular activities to use reasoning and thinking about ethical issue and moral conduct.

The study is a qualitative survey and based on interview of 1,400 students of primary, secondary and university students, 576 teachers and 1,280 school managing committee members.

The report said religion was being taught in Religion and Moral Studies paper, which is compulsory subject, through separate textbooks for Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and Christianity to the followers of the respective religion.

Lessons of these separate religious rituals and scriptures of each religion creates a sense of separateness and highlights difference among young people, says the report.

A common subject of religion and spiritual values can be introduced in primary and secondary grades which can bring together the common heritage of great religion, sanctity of life and others.

A teacher, Shamsul Haque, while taking part in open discussion, said that it was widely believed that teachers were nation builder and ideal person for a society. 'But nowadays, teachers are hardly seen in this way as they are busy with private tuition and coaching,' he said.

Pointing at information of students not looking upon teachers as their role models for ethical and moral conduct, technical and madrassah education division secretary Md Alamgir said they would put emphasis on the issue while making policy.

'But problem is that in our country everybody wants other to be honest but do not changes their own attitude,' he observed.

'It is really a big matter that conversation on ethics and values education is taking place,' primary and mass education minister Mostafizur Rahman said adding that this report would be an important document for policy makers.

CAMPE chairperson Kazi Rafiqul Alam chaired the launching programme in which its executive director Rahseda K Choudhury and head of DFID Bangladesh Jane Edmondson also spoke.

