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Demand for MPO inclusion logical, economically viable: speakers

Staff Correspondent | Published at 01:20am on July 08, 2018

Academics, politicians and journalists on Saturday demanded immediate inclusion of the teachers and employees who have remained out of Monthly Payment Order system. At a discussion at Mukti Bhaban in Dhaka, they said that the demand of the non-MPO teachers and employees now on the streets pushing for their enrolment were logical and economically viable.

Shiksha Barta, a monthly magazine, organised the discussion, where Socialist Party of Bangladesh general secretary Razequzzaman Ratan, Communist Party of Bangladesh leader Ruhin Hossain Prince, Jahangirnagar University former professor Taibul Hasan Khan, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology former professor Shafiuddin Ahmed, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University professor Fazlur Rahman, Non-MPO Educational Institutions' Teachers and Employees Federation vice-president Mohammad Sharifuzzaman and Bangladesh Chhatra Union president GM Jilani Shuvo, among others, spoke.

Shiksha Barta editor AN Rasheda presented the keynote paper.

Razequzzaman said that the government was not paying any heed to the demand for MPO inclusion though it was economically viable.

He said that about 80,000 teachers and employees at 5,342 educational institutions were out of the MPO system and Tk 1,920 crore was needed for their inclusion.

'The government needs no additional budget for the teachers,' he said arguing that about Tk 6,000 crore allocated for education ministry remained unutilised in the last fiscal and a portion of the fund could be provided for MPO.

Ruhin said that the state must take the responsibility of providing quality education but the government was shrugging off its responsibility. 'As the educational institutions were approved scrutinising all the required aspects, they should be given MPO benefits.'

Shafiuddin said, 'Education cannot be provided to students when teachers and employees fail to maintain their livelihoods.'

Taibul said that the condition of the teachers now on the street in the capital pointed to the sheer discrimination they were facing.

If the government wants that millions of children are taught by teachers who do not even get salary it would be harmful for their education, he said adding, 'It is disrespecting the teaching profession.'

AN Rasheda said that 98 per cent of educational institutions were set up by private initiative and the government approved them after they fulfilled all the criteria.

She said that about 20 lakh students were now getting education from non-MPO teachers and warned that their education would be seriously hampered if the educational institutions remained shut for long.



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