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PECE RESULTS

Govt primary schools falling behind others

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WHEN it comes to results, government primary school students are falling further behind contemporaries at non-government schools and kindergartens, according to results of Primary Education Completion Examination over past five years.

The percentage of GPA 5 achievers was 40-44 for high school-attached primary schools, 22-24 for kindergartens and 2 to 7 for government primary schools over last five years.

Academics and parents said the lack of facilities in government primary schools like quality of classroom

teaching, adequate teachers, comparatively less school contact hours, proper monitoring and supervision, were reflecting on the results of these students.

Admitting the fact, primary and mass education minister Mostafizur Rahman blamed the mindset of teachers of government primary schools, as it well known that service of any government institution lag behind that of any non-government institutions.

According to the Directorate of Primary Education, over the past five years, less than 7 per cent students from government primary schools scored the highest

Grade Point Average 5 while two per cent students from newly nationalised schools scored GPA 5.

The percentage of GPA 5 achievers was 40-44 for high school-attached primary schools and 22-24 for kindergartens in the same period.

Among these schools, students of newly nationalised government primary schools were worst performers.

According to the directorate, 1.96 per cent students from newly nationalised schools, 6.12 per cent from government primary schools, 44.55 per cent from

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Govt primary schools falling

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primary schools attached to high schools and 22.41 per cent from kindergartens scored GPA 5 in 2017 primary completion exams.

Over 9 per cent of all examinees that took PECE this year achieved GPA 5.

Overall pass rate of students taking exam from newly government primary schools in 2017 was less than 5.69 percentage points and 5.65 percentage points than the success rate of high school-attached primary school and kindergartens respectively.

Pass rate of students taking exam from government primary schools in 2017 was less than 2.34 percentage points and 2.30 percentage points than the success rate of high school-attached kindergarten respectively.

The directorate official said 2.2 per cent students from newly nationalised schools, 6.97 per cent from government primary schools, 41.12 per cent from primary schools attached to high schools and 24.43 per cent from kindergartens scored GPA 5 in primary completion exams of 2016.

The percentage of GPA 5 achievers was 2.21 for newly nationalised schools, 6.56 for government primary schools, 24 for kindergartens and 44 for high school attached primary schools in 2015.

In 2014, the percentage of GPA 5 achievers was 1.75 for newly nationalised schools, 6.97 for government primary schools, 24 for kindergartens and 41 for high schools attached primary schools.

In 2013, the percentage of GPA 5 achievers was 2.09 for newly nationalised schools, 5.97 for government primary schools, 25 kindergartens and 43 for high school attached primary schools.

Dhaka University professor emeritus Serajul Islam

Choudhury said government primary schools were plagued by shortage of qualified teachers and other infrastructures and proper educational environment.

DPE sources said more than 40,000 posts of government primary school teachers were vacant. They said that 6,546 government primary schools had only one classroom and 2,809 had two classrooms, issues that hampered class room teaching and learning.

Besides teaching time at staggered or double-shift government primary schools accounted for 85 per cent of all schools were less than the global average and decreasing each year.

Bangladesh Economic Survey 2017 showed that school contact hour at staggered primary schools for students of Class III to Class V stood at 791 hours in a year, which was 833 hours for the same number of students mentioned in the 2016 survey.

As per both the surveys, teaching time for Class I and II was 600 hours while the international standard recommends 1,000 hours of teaching time at primary level.

'It is seen that school contact hour of many government schools is less than that of kindergartens,' BRAC University's Institute of Educational Development professor emeritus Manzoor Ahmed said.

Manzoor said the government primary schools also lacked supervision and accountability of teachers who remained absent from classroom more.

Educationists also blamed differences between academic facilities, lack of trained teachers and motivation of teachers for the sharp difference of results of students.

Primary and mass

cation minister, Mostafizur Rahman, however, said government was trying to provide all kinds of logistics, incentives for government primary schools.

'People teaching in kindergarten and non-government institution works better, otherwise they might lose their jobs. Once these are nationalized, many consider that their responsibilities have decreased,' he said.

'Teachers are most vital. We are trying to motivate them, as well as to increase their training to make them more skilled,' he added.