

Underperforming schools on the rise

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THE number of schools with zero or less than 50 per cent success rate in public exams at primary, junior, secondary and higher secondary levels is on the rise for the last three years.

None or less than 50 per cent students of these schools passed these exams when overall pass rate was between 70 and 95 per cent for the last three years.

Most of these underper-

forming schools are from rural areas and educationists have blamed shortage of competent teachers, laboratories, libraries and other facilities in rural schools for their poor results.

'There are some schools whose education quality is questionable as only a few of their candidates pass public exam. We usually take action against them,' education minister Nurul Islam Nahid said.

Merging of these under-

performing schools with others is in our consideration... but for that we would need a legal basis,' he said, adding that the issue was in the draft of education act.

'We will pass the act as soon as possible,' he said.

Results of Primary Education Completion Examination after Class V and Junior School Certificate Examination after Class VIII on Saturday, Higher Secondary Certificate Examination after Class XII in July and

Secondary School Certificate Examination after Class X in May show that number of underperforming schools is increasing.

Board officials said that in JSC and equivalent exam less than 50 per cent students passed from 1991 schools and madrassahs in 2017; it was 331 in 2016 and 450 in 2015.

In the exams, 59 schools and madrassahs had zero pass rate in 2017, 28 in 2016 and 43 in 2015.

In SSC and equivalent exams, less than 50 per cent students passed from 3,001 schools and madrassahs in 2017. The number of such institutions was 875 in 2016 and 947 in 2015.

In the exams, the number of institutions with a zero pass rate was 93 in 2017. The number was 53 in 2016 and 47 in 2015.

In HSC and equivalent exams, less than 50 per cent students passed from 1,781

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The number of institutions with a zero pass rate was 72 in 2017. The number was 25 in 2016 and 35 in 2015.

In the PECE exam, the number of institutions with a zero per cent pass rate was 360 in 2017. The number was 55 in 2016 and 166 in 2015.

In the ibtedayi education completion exam, the number of institutions with a zero per cent pass rate was 85 in 2017. The number was 26 in 2016 and 42 in 2015.

Board officials said that most of these underperforming schools were from the rural areas.

They said rural students could not afford coaching, private tuition and did not get better guidance from par-

ents at home and teachers in classrooms so their results were bad, they said.

Dhaka University professor emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury said that rural schools performed poorly as students from urban well-to-do families could avail coaching, private tuition, better guidance, food and nutrition.

The number of better quality schools and colleges

is more in the capital and others cities than the rural areas, so their result is better,' former Dhaka University English professor Syed Manzoorul said.

Education minister said that on many occasions only a few students took the exam from these underperforming educational institutions. 'We do not want to keep these schools to save public money,' Nahid said.