If your university was like a trade fair, riddled with people and you had no place to sit or walk, how would it affect you? Would you feel the urge to go to study there every day?

As they rise in the rankings, private universities are enrolling more students than ever. According to Bangladesh Education Statistics 2021, the number of students enrolled in private universities increased dramatically between 2019 and 2021, rising from 120,276 to a whopping 328,689, and there are no signs of the numbers slowing down anytime soon. This enormous increase in student enrolment raises more fundamental questions about accommodations and quality than it answers. Intake at private institutions in Bangladesh occurs in the trimesters of Spring, Fall, and Summer, with the Spring intake attracting the largest influx of applicants. Despite being a great option for aspiring students to pursue higher education, it is creating numerous issues for students currently enrolled.

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According to National Center for Education Statistics (NCES - US), a facility is deemed to be overcrowded if enrolments exceed 5 percent of the capacity of the permanent infrastructure. A university campus, in the opinion of Zarin Subah, a student at the Independent University of Bangladesh, should be "a free and open environment where one can unwind after consecutive classes for a little sojourn". But trying to find a seat on the campus of the university is like trying to find Waldo.

"I can't find a place to study in between my classes. Everywhere I go, I find that the premise is noisy and crowded with people," confessed Maliha Bushra, an undergraduate student at a reputable university.