

### Primary Education

Sir—I still remember that when I was a student of Calcutta Presidency College, one of our professors of international reputation told us incidentally that it was very difficult to teach us, the grown up students as we could not easily agree with him in case anything wrong and absurd would come out from his mouth perchance. He also made clear to us about teaching tender aged young boys and girls whose mental faculties are still dormant. On some other occasion, he expressed his unwillingness to teach us during his scheduled period as he did not prepare himself at home with the particular subject. Needless to mention that we were struck with wonder at the remarkable frankness of a genius like him who had complete mastery over the subject. I feel that the above mentioned facts may serve as an example for us today if we care to follow the suit. His sayings on the first day remind us that primary education is the real stepping stone of a man's future success. In life while the other brings to the fore that mark of academic distinction is not enough for teaching.

It affords me much pleasure to be able to mix with young boys and girl students even at this retired age as and when occasion arises. Sometimes I put to them some simple questions betting the standard to which they belong with a view to taking into my head how far the huge amount spent both by the government and parents are to the purpose. But to my utter surprise, I come to the conclusion that the common object is yet to be achieved, especially to remove the general deficiency in English and mathematics. A simple instance may be cited. The other day, I was in the midst of some young students to whom I put this question in passing.

'Suppose the sum total of your and your father's ages will be 60 years after 10 years hence. Let me know what is the present sum total of ages of both of you.' I was taken aback that each of them failed to give the correct answer, including a girl of class VII.

Believe it or not only recently I was engaged as a home tutor for a girl student of Class XI of a highly reputed college of Dacca city but I chose to re-start everything from the beginning for some obvious reasons. May it appear rude to some, still I dare describe below a few of her backwardness rooted from the early stage.

I found that she did not know the correct spelling of 'university', the rules of syntax i.e. use of articles in the structure of sentences and worse than these, I found her habituated to write 'Many man'.

As a matter of fact the above is but a partial view of the state of affairs prevailing in the primary sections of our schools. We feel something must be done to streamline the whole education system—Yours etc. ABDUS SATTAR MOLLAH (Retd. Senior Officer Bangladesh Bank) Goran, Dacca