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March abroad for education

Campus Report

In the last couple of years many teenagers who have just completed their HSC or SSC or even some school children have left Bangladesh for pursuing their education abroad.

This trend is something new. In the pre-liberation days those who were interested in education used to do so after completing their masters degree.

In the last six or seven years the trend has reversed. The teenagers as well as their parents seem to think that it is wiser to study a foreign country as chances of unscheduled closure is not there.

The deterioration in our standard of ducation coupled has forced with emphasis on every thing Bangla many students to go abroad.

For the new monied class sending children abroad for higher education is a status symbol. Since money is not a problem they donot hesitate to take the opportunity of sending their children abroad.

Not all parents send their children to UK or USA many send them to India, particularly to the hilly resorts of Darjeeling, Dhera Dhun and to schools in other parts of South India.

These are mainly the students who patronise the local tutorials

catering for the GCE 'O' Level before they go abroad.

Others, who complete their O Levels go to UK for higher education. As most of them donot get good grades they are left with very little chance other than to go for a diploma course—diploma in marketing, diploma in automobile engineering or diploma from the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the like. The less ambitious student join the polytechnics.

There is no dearth of private educational instutions which have different kinds of courses geared to suit the foreigners in UK.

For many who go abroad it does not matter what they study, as long as they come back with a certificate from a foreign country.

Previously entry to the Bar-at-Law course was open for those who had two 'A' Levels or were graduates. The same was true of the chartered accountant courses. Now the minimum admission requirement of the first had been raised to masters degree.

Students who enrol in these courses have a chance to work and study to pay for one's educational expenses as one earns.

Some such students are studying for years together and are now living in UK with their wives and children.

Recently a trend is being noticed among the students particularly among the teenagers to sit for the TOEFL or SAT examinations at Dhaka so that they are eligible for admission to a university in USA or Canada.

The students therefore join these institutions no matter what they charge. Our faulty education system has forced many of our students to go abroad for higher studies and also to settle abroad ultimately.

It will be so unless and untill the system is improved. There is no chance that the situation shall improve in the very near future because those who send their children are at the helm of policy matters. Since they donot send their children to the local schools there is no way for them to analyse what is going on in these schools and to think of improvement.

The country is losing by this brain drain. Unless and untill we make efforts there is no chance that this brain drain will stop.