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Double shift
 in universities

To cope with the increasing rush of admission seekers Dhaka University authority now agrees to introduce double shift. But if necessary steps are not taken immediately, it won't be possible to introduce this system during the next academic year. Introduction of double shift is not so easier as we imagine. It is true that our six universities and other professional colleges could provide higher education facilities only for around seven thousand out of 50 to 60 thousand students who pass HSC every year. And if double shift can be introduced in all universities, problem of admission seeking students will be partially solved.

As much if we can provide more facilities for higher studies we will be able to utilize more of the youth power for the betterment of the society and save our youth from sinking in the sea of frustrations. But the question of introducing double shift is mainly related to the resource problem. Introduction of double shift means the existing number of the teaching staff should be made double. Other concerned staff should also be increased accordingly.

Then arises the accommodation question of the students. The Dhaka University authority at present can provide accommodation facilities only to the 50 percent of its total number of students. And so the residential halls are being ever crowded and this crowded situation is hampering the academic atmosphere. Then arise the question related to our social values. In our society no girl is allowed to stay out of her house after evening in the universities and colleges. For girls are sent to their hostels before dusk. And naturally double shift in the educational arena means night shift. So girls students might not be able to avail the opportunity of double shift system.

When asked about the

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possibility of introducing double shift the acting Vice-Chancellor of the Dhaka University told that they are eager to introduce the system. But their routine budget of the academic year 1986-87 is a deficit one. And the grants of the Grants Commission and the Government are not enough to maintain the normal activities. He told that repeated deferment of examination and session jam had already compelled them to arrange a good number of extra classes. Nearly 40 per cent of the total number of the students of Dhaka University remain in the campus as a result of the session jam. So, the teaching staff of the University are to bear burden of extra classes and they can get hardly any extra energy to attend the double shift classes. So, university needs additional teachers and staff. And therefore its future will totally depend on the government's monetary allocations. A member of the University Grants Commission also expressed same opinion like that of the VC. D. U. He said all the universities are facing similar problems. So, isolatedly no university can run this double shift system. But he agreed that the introduction of double shift is the only feasible solution of the increasing demand for the higher education. But without additional fund allocation no university can introduce this system in near future.

In this context it is necessary to appoint a Commission which will study the feasibility of the proposed system. And obviously it is linked with the national educational policy. Because earlier education policies always suggested that the higher education should be qualitative not universal.

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