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# Private tuition 'Yes' or 'No'

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*We are not against private coaching as such but we do not support teachers who go for private tuition while being involved with the examination process. We hail govt's decision to debar teachers who are involved with the examination process to be involved with private tuition. This has to be stopped immediately. Unless we can do so, it is wrong to expect that the situation at our academic institutions will improve.*



Private coaching centres are every where, in all corners of the metropolitan capital. Not a single day passes when we do not see one such advertisement in the newspaper. At the beginning of every academic session we see a handful of new coaching centres but why?

Private coaching centres were not so common here even four or five years back. But today neither the parents nor the students can dream of passing their exam let alone do well without with the help of private tutors.

With the growth of population the number of students have soared by manifolds in the cities. But the number of schools have not soared in the same proportion. As a result, a class has become very large and the teacher student ratio has worsened. Today this ratio ranges from 1:75 at the schools to 1:200 at the colleges or even more. But the class time has remained static at forty minutes. What can a student get in forty minute? He does not even get half-a-minute of

the teachers time in most cases.

On top of this, frequent unscheduled closure due to strike, hartals, natural calamities and other unforeseen

reason make it impossible for a teacher to complete the course leaving the student with no option but to go to a private teacher.

At the same stance there

are some teachers who do not teach properly in the class in the hope of getting private tuition later on. This is what is usually done by teachers of reputed schools and colleges of the country. Moreover some reputed teachers of govt educational institutions are usually involved with the examination process students flock to them in the hope that by paying them some money as fees every month they can buy their result. Incidents where teachers have changed their students result because of this is not absolutely unheard. Such things even happen in the Board examinations.

Today because of appalling student teacher ratio and other reasons many a parent has to employ a private tutor. One such tutor at the minimum charges Tk 1000/- or so per month per child for three to four hours a week. But sending a child to a coaching centre is much cheaper. For Tk 300-500 all subjects are taught to a child for five days a week. For many families of the lower or middle income bracket this is the only honourable solution out.

Today life here is tough. For the students it is even tougher. To get a seat at a good school or college or even at the university one has to appear and pass at the competitive exams. Without coaching by experienced hands it is impossible to pass such an examination as for one seat there are atleast 60 to 70 students competing.

At things stand, private coaching and coaching centers have come to stay. They are not harming us. It is teachers involved with the exam process that are doing the harm. The govt has issued the right circular. Merely passing circulars is not enough. It has to be executed and teachers involved with the exam process should be stopped.