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Tyranny of notebooks

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There is an allegation from different quarters that the quality of education has deteriorated and students who are coming out successful in examinations from schools and colleges are not able to show up to the level one is expecting.

Looking at the overall situation prevailing in the educational institutions, one cannot be optimistic about the ongoings in this sector. Exercise about improving educational standard is sometimes heard from different levels with this and that suggestion undergoing unending trials. Some blame private coaching by school teachers and some blame overemphasis on notebooks.

TEACHERS' ROLE

None of the propositions can be dismissed outright. Notebooks have become essential tools for passing examination. This overemphasis on notebooks emanates from the idea imbedded in students that education means passing out by any means. Notebooks are not in short supply in the market. Thousands of students who are coming out successful in SSC examinations are to go through notebooks since those are written by their teachers.

OBJECTIVE QUESTION

The teachers who write notebooks may be examiners also. So notebooks are spread out

everywhere and even saner guardians cannot help avoid those. It was suggested that setting of objective type questions would lessen the dependence on notebooks. Objective type questions call for serious study of the text books. Note book-makers can also bring out notebook suited to such questions.

PRIVATE TUITION

The father of a girl reading in class IX said that his daughter procured three notebooks on Bengali. She is not a bad student but secured 30 per cent marks in Bengali and her mother is bent upon detaining her in class IX. Perhaps the notebooks are to be blamed. If objective type questions are set, teachers will have to give more attention to students. At present, guardians allege that many teachers engage themselves in private tuition ignoring the need for effective class-room teaching.

QUALITY TEACHING

Note-books block the creative thinking of students who are in most cases found memorising even ordinary things from notebooks. The present deteriorating situation calls for devising ways that can test the intelligence of the school-goers. The quality of class-room teaching should be increased simultaneously to reduce dependence of students on notebooks.