

Reforming examination system

It is a herculean task to surmount all problems confronting the education sector in a short span of time. Those have to be tackled meticulously after thorough review of all aspects which are adversely affecting the standard of education in the country. The most appropriate methodology to overcome them is through a broad consensus on which the present government is giving utmost stress. Unfortunately the non-cooperative attitude of the major opposition in respect of all major issues is really regrettable.

The faulty examination system is also retarding the growth of proper educational environment and therefore the credibility of the overall education system is in jeopardy.

The regular recurrence of question paper leakage particularly noticed during the last few years pertaining to Secondary and Higher Secondary Examinations calls for inculcating among those indulging in this nefarious act a sense of honesty and sincerity in the discharge of their onerous responsibility. This year question paper leakage was detected in the Secondary School Examination. The government reacted promptly and formed an inquiry committee to investigate into this abominable offence. The government has taken legal actions against some of them on the basis of a preliminary investigation report and five more government employees were charged for their involvement in SSC examination question paper leakage. Three binders of the confidential section of B G Press have been suspended on the basis of the initial inquiry report. Besides, a show cause notice was reportedly served on the Deputy Controller of the Press. These legal actions are however welcome. But there should not be any attempt to shelve the issue. The inquiry committee report should be made known to all in public interest by publishing it in the print and electronic media. And hopefully the present government with its adherence to the concept of accountability and transparency would leave no stone unturned in giving exemplary punishment to the perpetrators of this detestable act.

The government has formed a high power review committee with eminent educationists to make a fresh review of the Dr Qudrat-e-Khuda Commission Report submitted during the first post liberation government of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The exhaustive report is still considered a landmark in the history of education. But the governments in the post 1975 era shelved the report on flimsy pretexts much to the annoyance of many educationists and people of learning.

Now that the government of national consensus led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has formed a high power committee to review all aspects of the report, there is a ray of hope that a new education policy with scientific and technological bias will be announced in order to transform the existing outdated education system in sublime national interest. It would be in the fitness of things if the review committee also takes into cognizance the issue of prevalent examination system and how best to reform it to avoid any sort of leakage of question papers. For that it would be appropriate if the Review Committee solicits the valued suggestions from educationists, teachers and other professionals to facilitate this body to reach broad understanding in recommending a credible examination system. The necessity has particularly arisen after the periodic leakage of question papers. If need be, the Review Committee should send some of its members to study the examination systems from the school upto the university level of some renowned universities in Asia and the West. This will go a long way in resolving the issue of question paper leakage too and also assist in modernising the examination system in order to get rid of this menace tormenting the educational arena.