



Letters

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Examination System

Sir,

A few days ago, the Education Minister announced that the country's examination system would undergo reform starting from 1992. It was explained that the introduction of the new examination system with objective-type questions would reduce the scope for mass cheating in public examinations. The reality is that the whole education system, including the system of examination, is suffering from mismanagement, indiscipline and corruption as you had rightly pointed out in your Editorial comments (B.O., Oct. 12, 1988). Hence, the pitfalls of the examination system is only the tip of the iceberg. The shortcomings being observed in the examination system are the result of the shortcomings of the country's education administration. Despite reports of scandals like irregular practices by many educational institutions, issuance of many fake certificates by a section of board officials, mass copying in the examination halls etc., the punishments accorded to the wrongdoers have not been commensurate with the degree and frequency of the offences. So, the irregularities and malpractices, at all tiers of the education sector, have continued unabated. Reportedly the extent of mass copying this year in the S.S.C. and H.S.C. examination has surpassed all previous records.

And, the sad part of the story is that the top echelons of the Administration, who never fail to claim their own achievements through the public media, have so far only paid lip service to improving the whole education system. So, we have reason enough to be sceptical about the net results of the proposed reforms of the examination system.

As stated earlier, reforming the examination system is only a piecemeal solution to the deeper malaise that the whole education system is afflicted with. What measures have been adopted by the authorities concerned to stop mass copying in the examination halls? What has been done by the Govt. to remove the irregularities and malpractices within the education departments? How to ensure timely supply of textbooks and maintain their minimum acceptable standard? All these questions are interrelated and should be addressed first before expecting any tangible improvements in the education scene. On top of these, the critics have pointed out that introduction of objective-type questions in fact may impair the acquisition of the language skills of the students, a vital requirement of academic excellence.

We are, therefore, doubtful about the results to be derived from Govt's move to reform the examination system.

T.I. Khan, Dhaka.

Annual Examination

Sir,

This refers to a letter under the heading 'Annual Examination' published in these columns of your esteemed daily of October 9, 1988. I strongly support his views. If the Annual Examination is held in February, 1989 most of the students will be able to complete the syllabus and will be better equipped to appear in the Annual Examination. It may be mentioned here that most of the students have lost their books, khata and notes etc. during the recent devastating flood.

I urge the authorities concerned to look into the matter carefully.

Sanat, Narayanganj.

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