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Foreign books dominate approved book list

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That the kindergartens and the privately owned English medium schools and other missionary schools are to get their book list approved from the National Curriculum Textbook Board prior to the commencement of the academic session

task of choosing the books has frustrated us. It is gathered that out of the finalised list of 343 books 80% are to be imported from abroad which is just the opposite of what was expected from them.

A Committee was set by

number of importers are doing brisk business by importing foreign books. Prior to '71 the situation was not so. We had English medium schools here. Even students could sit for the SSC and HSC exam from here in English. All books on geography, history, social studies were written by local writers in English. Even local reprints of Radiant Reading and Radiant Way series were available here. But after '71 things have changed. Now the Radiant Way and Radiant Reading books have to be imported. One local publisher did come up with the local edition which is now out of print.

the first three months of the school academic session most students are without books. The case of students outside Dhaka is even worse.

Nor are they interested to commission the services of the best teachers for writing and editing the books. They usually appoint their friends and acquaintances to do this task.



If there is a uniform book list in the country it is imperative that the National Curriculum and Textbook Board should shoulder the task of publishing books based on local information written by local experienced writers at the earliest opportunity. Unless this can be done the disparity between the private KG or tutorials and govt primary schools can never be bridged. The govt primary schools using locally produced books published by UNESCO and distributed free of cost are far inferior to the imported books taught at the private schools. With better backgrounds these students get an edge from early childhood which gets wider and wider as time passes leading to a clear distinction between urban and rural students standardwise.

Why can't the local editions be published? Why do we teach imported books? What are our teachers and publishers doing? Can't the university, college and experienced school teachers be motivated to write books in English particularly when the market is so large or is this move being thwarted on purpose so that foreign import of books continues.

Our Text Book Board is also responsible for this state of affairs. Till date they don't have a press of their own from where they can publish their books. They dish out contracts to other publishers who in turn dish out sale contracts to others. This is one reason for low quality of books and also for delay in printing books. For

came as welcome new. It was believed that this move by the govt would help to remove disparity between the different educational institutions of the country and also help to evolve a uniform booklist.

One of the main reason for this move was to stop teaching those foreign books which are contradictory to our customs, traditions and culture.

But alas! the move of the Committee entrusted with the

the govt to accomplish this task and the committee has come up with its recommendation but most of the books approved for the playgroup, nursery and KG classes are to be imported mainly from India.

It is gathered that out of the ten books for playgroup class, six are from India, one from UK and the remaining three published locally.

It is also gathered that a

As things are, the whole exercise of the Committee is a simple wastage because foreign books have been selected for being taught here instead of making provisions for local books.