

CAMPUS

Music college in shambles

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As I walked down Green Road a signboard with the words "Sarkari Sangeet Mahabidhya" attracted me. What struck me was another signboard below this one, with the words "Ashiana Mahila Mission" on it. In order to find out what was happening I entered the premises only to discover that the Music College was housed on the second and third floor of 16 Green Road. The students of the college were every where on the first, on the second and third floors and some where even in the nearby shops or on the road side which I later found out was due to the absence of a common room.

Here about 250 students study. Housed in eight rooms stretching on two floors with no library or even space to store the scanty musical instruments or even a music laboratory, where could the students do? what could they do or learn?

Started in '63 at a place where the Monowars Kindergarten is now housed, the only music college of the country has moved to different venues many times from Segun Bagicha to Mohammedpur, Lamatia and finally at Green Road. The eight rooms are used by the Tagore, folk and Nazrul sangeet students of the intermediate and graduation level. Some rooms are being used by the principal, vice principal, teachers as their common room and office of the college. Nothing could be worse than to find a dingy pantry with shelves used by the students as their folk lore practise room. With space enough for a tabalchi and two other persons how could a person be expected to even hum a few word, let alone sing in such a stifling place? Yet the students of this college seem to have accepted everything and try their level best to learn whatever they can under many constraints here.

Nationalised in '84 the Govt Music College seems to be a mockery of its name. Here only singing is taught. Initially when the college had started in '63 tabla, sitar and flute were taught but now they have all been discarded. Two types of students generally come to this institution which has a pass percentage of 66.67% in the last HSC examination with one student even getting first divisip. The first type consists of students who are very keen about music and want to know more about the subject but there is another group who come here because they cannot get admission in any other subject and also because they know a bit of singing they feel it is easier for them to score marks here instead of learning a new subject. But lack of space is creating serious problems and it is becoming impossible for a

teacher to teach a group of twenty students how to sing in one period. Nor can the students practise whenever they like. It is a must for this college to have residential accommodation where the students can stay and practise for hours together. Absence of its own building has slowed down the progress of this college. It has become a must to have its own building, auditorium, hostel and a good collection of instruments, books, tapes, cassattes and other related gadgets. Although 5 2/1 acres of land have been allotted to the college four years ago and a plan was submitted by the govts

nation to join the college as lecturers. So what is the justification of opening this college when job opportunities are nil and from where will the vacancies be filled too? At the moment there are about 16 M Mus in the country but whether they will be willing to sit for the BSC examination conducted by the Public Service Commission (PSC) is doubtful. Why not a special committee set up by Public Service Commission consisting of singers conduct and select the lecturers of this college?

The college itself is plagued with staff problems. Only six out of twentyfive teachers are

college was being regularised why does the question of formal certificates come now? Ironically these four teachers are stalwarts in their own fields and have many discs which speak for themselves as publications of university teachers do.

Khalid Hossin has to take as many as four classes everyday in the absence of any other teacher of Nazrul Sangeet in the college. If this trend continues very soon we shall be losing a great singer. Can the nation afford this loss? Yet no effort is underway to regularise his services.

The six teachers of music, Mrs Shamima Parveen teaches classical music and is now on leave for quite sometime, so the students are suffering as there is no others teacher of classical music to teach them. Mr Mirmoy Das Gupta teaches Tagore songs, Mr Khalid Hossain Nazrul songs, Mr Indra Mohan Rajbangshi and Mr Zahir Alim folk songs while Mrs Rizwana Chowdhury teaches the Theory of music and Mor Sadi Mohd Takiullah the history of music.

The syllabus itself is scanty and needs to be revised as it consists of autobiographies mostly. At the HSC level 600 marks are for the general subjects and 400 for music, at the graduation level it is 500 marks for each section.

Concerned quarters feel that the syllabus should not be the same as in the other colleges but related to music as in the arts institute. Such as including teaching a bit of physics as it deals with sounds which is very important for students here instead of only the humanities subjects.

But unless and until the services of the four teachers are regularised and the college building is constructed nothing much can be expected. It is also true that all future recruitments should be done through the PSC on the basis of formal education. Provisions should be made for teaching M Mus here. The existing vacancies should be filled immediately. Getting M Mus from abroad will not help us because our culture customs and environment are very different from elsewhere. For example, in Baroda, most singers sing in 'D sharp' but here it is very difficult to cross 'C sharp'. The geographical condition has an indirect bearing on this.

Music College is a factory and the radio, TV, Shipakala Academy or Performing Arts Institute are all its showrooms. If the products which come out from the factory are good the show rooms will look beautiful too. It is time necessary steps were taken to allow the music college to develop on sound lines.



chief architect nevetheless till date no tangible progress has been made as far as the building is concerned and the college has to suffer because whenever the lease expires at the end of a contract they have to move to a new place at exhorbitant rent.

One cannot understand when govt nationalised this college why it is so much neglected especially as it is the only college of its kind in the country or is it because the beauracrats donot speak the same language as the musician?

The President, the Education Minister, the Secretary have all come here and expressed optimism that things would improve but unfortunately there is no change. For the students who come here, after completing their graduation there is no scope to do M Mus or scope of employment as teachers in different schools nor can they in the absence of masters degree sit for the BCS exami-

there to teach subjects connected with music the rest are all teachers of general subjects. Among these six, the services of four—the veteran singer of Nazrul sons Khalid Hossain, of folk songs Indra Mohan Rajbangshi and Zahir Alim or of Tagore artist Mriñoy Das Gupta, although absorbed, are yet to be regularised by the Public Service Commission. These teachers are passing their days in great anxiety. For these teachers, particularly for Khalid Hossain who has been associated with this college since 74 and from whose hands many batches of B Mus have passed out what more could be the yardstick of judging his qualification? Moreover, for him, and the two other teachers of folk music, there is no scope of doing M Mus from India as M Mus in Nazrul or folk sangeet is not accorded there. When the govt has absorbed their services when the