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Tk 1200 to Tk 1400 charged as exam fees

60,000 in flood-hit area may not sit for SSC, HSC Exam

JESSORE, Dec 6:—About 60,000 students of the flood affected areas of Jessore and Satkhira districts under Jessore Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education may be deprived of sitting in the SSC and HSC Examinations next year due to acute financial crisis and other problems.

Thousands of students of the south-western districts lost their

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books, notes and other educational appliances which have been washed away by flood water. On return to their homes, they found nothing but vacant land. The household articles, agriculture products, cash money and other valuables have also been washed away.

The people of Jessore, Satkhira, Chuadanga and Meherpur districts are yet to be rehabilitated. Most

of them are living on gratuitous relief's and assistance from the NGOs.

The date of filling up of forms for the ensuing SSC Examinations has been fixed by the Board authority which did not grant concession of examination fees to the examinees of the affected areas.

The Secondary School authorities of the rural areas charged fees which are two to three times higher than that of fees fixed by the Board.

The Board fee ranges from Tk 400 to Tk 500 for different subjects but the school authorities fixed Tk 1200 to Tk 1400 as examinations including coaching fee and other charges, it is alleged.

The candidates of ensuing SSC Examinations of the flood affected areas are unable to pay the high amount of fees and they may be dropped from appearing in the examinations.

It is apprehended that about 40,000 students who will appear in the ensuing HSC and Diploma Engineering Board Final Examinations of the flood affected areas may also face the same situation.

Some meritorious students and their guardians while talking to the journalists expressed their inability to fill up forms for appearing in the SSC and HSC Examinations by paying high amount of fees.

Several students when interviewed told this correspondent that one or two years of their academic life may be lost because their guardians are unable to pay their examination fees and cost of books and other appliances.

When contacted Head Masters of the Secondary Schools said that they are charging the fees according to the decision of the Teachers Association.

It is opined by different quarters that the Board should exempt the examination fees of the SSC and HSC candidates so that they can appear in the examinations without any hindrance.

The Board authority should request the Education Ministry to consider the exemption of fees for the greater interest of the nation.

The BRAC has recently declared disbursement of interest free loan for the SSC and HSC candidates of flood affected region but most of the examinees expressed their ignorance about the loan of BRAC. The BRAC officials were not available for their comment.