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Editorial

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Admission problem

THE problem of admission in the schools of the metropolis is becoming acuter every year. The number of seats available is far less compared to the need which keeps growing from year to year. Consequently admission seekers, who are mostly children are subjected to prolonged worries and in some cases even their education careers are affected.

Not that there has not been any increase in the number of schools in the metropolis and elsewhere. But the increase is not proportional to the growth of population. And the growth has been even slower in respect of schools which are believed to give good education. Some of these ace schools drew a crowd of admission seekers numbering about ten times more than they had seats for. The result is disappointment for the overwhelming majority and manipulation and mal-

practice. The problem has been further compounded by the tendency being shown by some schools in recent years to trade seat for money. Large donation can buy a seat for a student who could not pass admission test. This highly inequitable and unhealthy practice is increasingly in evidence among some of the most reputed institutions.

On the other hand, there are some less known schools which do not experience any rush at all. These schools do not achieve impressive results in SSC and therefore do not attract students and guardians in the same way. Thus the problem is not only that schools are few but also that the standard of teaching is highly uneven. If the standard of these ordinary schools could be raised it would be possible to siphon off the pressure on the few exclusive schools. Growth has to be not only in quantitative but also qualitative terms.

As for malpractices like taking donation as a quid pro quo for giving admission, the matter calls for serious scrutiny. Recently the government took notice of the examination malpractice resorted to by

some schools in remote areas and initiated actions including the withholding of grants. Such steps were appreciated. But the so-called elitist schools in the metropolis which follow an admission policy overtly tilted against the underprivileged class should not escape the corrective measures of the authorities.