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Present education system — What others think of it?

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The existing faulty system of examination is the reflection of the backward socio-economic structure of the country. Without the emancipation of our society socially and economically, the development of examination system is unthinkable rather jumping on to another examination system would be of little success.

This was observed by the speakers of the seminar on the 'Present system of examination and its development' held at the campus of the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE), Comilla in connection with its Silver Jubilee of foundation on March 4 last.

Chaired by Dr. Mobarak Ali Akhand, Chairman, Comilla BISE, the seminar was attended by eminent scientist Dr. Abdullah-al-Muti Sharfuddin and Mr. Abdur Rashid Chowdhury, Chairman, Dhaka BISE as chief and special guests respectively, while the key-note paper in it was presented by Dr Ali Asgar, Head of the Physics Department, BUET, Dhaka.

The seminar was addressed also by Prof. Amzad Ali Khan, Controller of Examinations Comilla BISP, Principal Abul Kalam Mazumder of Lalmai, College and member, National Education Commission and Principal Abdul Kader of Comilla Polytechnic Institute.

While presenting the key-note paper of the seminar Dr Ali Asgar opined that the tendency increased to acquire certificates dishonestly as certificates had been used solely as the yardstick of knowledge.

There is no difficulty in using dishonestly earned certificates as certificate are valued like paper currency notes irrespective of its owner. If there is no value and requirement of knowledge, intelligence, creativeness and skill in the working field (practical), then dishonesty will continue.

He suggested for setting lengthy question papers in the examination, which would take time to understand. But the pin-point answer of the question would be small. In this way proper merit of the examinee could be judged. Another way of judging actual merit of the examinees lies in the question papers, in which an examinee has to answer all the questions.

By adopting this method, the acquired knowledge of an examinee could not only be judged, his/her short-comings of knowledge could also be judged and in the said process the tendency of answering from memory and depending on private tutors would be lessened to some extent. He recommended abolition of Division system with the replacement of gradation system in the examination for paving way for higher studies of a sizeable number of meritorious students who fall victim due to Division system.

Eminent scientist Dr Abdullah-al-Muti Sharfuddin while delivering his speech as the chief guest of his seminar underscored the need of setting up of an Examination Development Centre of the country, which would enable the exami-

nation experts to judge proper merits of the students. Expressing his grief he added that on several occasions several policies had been drafted without implementation of the same.

Principal Abul Kalam Mazumder opined that this examination system has lost faith in the public as several commissions have been formed and furnished several reports from time to time for the development of the same. But none has so far been fully materialized. The main pre-conditions of the development of the examination system lies in the development of standard in the class room and socio-economic status of the teachers above all the society.

It would be foolish to expect conducting of macpractice-free examination from

the teachers, who were compelled to get involved in vote-dacoity. A govt. could be changed but its adopted education policy should not be changed in any way, he felt. Principal Abdul Kader held the view that open book system should be introduced in the examination to judge the merit in a proper way. He added that without development of educational institutions, its related atmosphere, imparting of orientation training to the teachers development of the whole examination system could hardly be achieved.

Addressing the seminar the Chair person Dr. Mobarak Ali Akhand realized that repeated holding of this sort of seminar could enable exchange of ideas and views to assist in the development of examination system.