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CAMPUS

Tutorials playing with tuition fees?

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Over the years there has been a mushroom growth of tutorials and kindergartens in the country. They have mainly sprang up because of shortage of educational institutions. The school-going population has increased by manifolds whereas the number of schools particularly government ones have not increased in the same manner. To fill this vacuum the tutorials and kindergartens have come. They are doing

But what is happening at such places. These institutions are housed in rented buildings where the pantry is converted into a teachers common room or class room, where even the verandah is used. There is no playground and a very small library or laboratory. According to British Council authorities no tutorial at Dhaka has laboratory befitting specifications set up from UK. (Only Willes Little and Aga Khan

institutions in details and verify them? As everyone knows these tutorials are money making machines earning a huge amount of profit. Increasing fees without increasing facilities means more profits for them at their parents discomfiture. For the sake of their children education they are forced to shoulder the additional burden. We shall take up the case of 'Scholastica Tutorial

rent as shown is exorbitant and needs to be checked. Even the salaries of the teaching staff seems absurd. Mr Showkat Hossain, the Maths teacher is shown us having drawn a monthly salary of Tk 9,750 last year while Mr Manjur Majid, the Economics teacher draw Tk 10,150 per month. Do teachers really earn that high salary in Bangladesh or is it a ruse to evade income tax?



Such display by students enthralls the heart.

an excellent service for us no doubt, atleast giving chance to many of our students to be educated, some people are of the opinion that the quality of education imparted in these tutorials is much superior to these of government primary school whatever be it, we welcome the growth of private educational institutions in the country because they are needed badly.

Most of the tutorials cater for the 'O' Level syllabus of UK. It is not only children of affluent parents who enter such schools but many children of middle class backgrounds also come here mainly due to two reason—firstly there is a acute shortage of schools and secondly because many parents think it is a status symbol to send their wards to English medium schools.

School has it). Yet year after year the tuition fees of the students are raised on the plea that price at everything else has gone up except the guardians/parents salary.

By letter no SH 4/16-20/88 of 25-1-89 of the Education Ministry, the English medium tutorials here advised not to increase their tuition fees. They have however managed to put pressure on the Education Ministry and forced them to change their decision by alongwith them to increase their fees by 30 percent. This is so because most of these tutorials are run by people who have connection with the top notch and can sway the decisions in their favour.

Did the ministry really examine the income and expenditure accounts of these

situated at as an instance. According to details submitted by the school to the Education Ministry they had 584 students on their rools in 1988. The tuition fee from these students came to Tk 33 lakh. The yearly changes came to Tk 6,97,200 although it has been omitted from the income side of the schools' student form, The total annual income for last year therefore was Tk 40,03,200/- whereas the total expenditure shown in Paras 9-10-11 of the same form amounts to Tk 28,64,488 only. The annual net profit was Tk 11,38,712. With this huge amount was there any need to enhance tuition fees? After enhancement of fees have students been provided with additional facilities (the plea for enhancement)? Moreover insiders allege that the house

Scholastica is not the lone school which has increased tuition fees. Naila Memorial Fleur Tutorial has doubled its previous years tuition fees forcing many guardians to change school.

It is time that things should be investigated. The govt should deeply look through the accounts of these schools check and verify then in the context of the socio-economic pattern of the country and do the needful to stop such unjustified fee hike. Above all govt decisions shouldnot be changed every now and then. This creates a lot of pressure. It is justified for a parent who paid the Tk 350 in June 87 for a KG students to pay Tk 700 now for the same class?