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Mahila College : Playing with its students

Campus Report

Islamia Mahila College situated at Iqbal Road, Mohammedpur in a rented building is playing with the fate of many innocent female students.

Although this college has no affiliation for the degree course they have admitted 22 students who have completed their two years of study and are about to sit for their exams this year. The six students who attend classes regularly are on the horns of a dilemma because they do not know what will happen to them. The college authority does not seem to be much concerned about the fate of the students. They are interested in collecting fees and money on this or that pretext from the students.

Possibly this is a unique college in the sense that before every exams the students have to pay Tk. 50 as exams fees but the invigilators on duty are reminded by the college authorities to see that the students do not waste paper. Extra sheets are rationed.

This is the only college with a HOSTEL without a superintendent or matron. The old clerk and the lone darwan who is on twentyfour hours duty guard the female students. It is alleged that the resident students are at liberty to do whatever they please, go out at any time by

oil the palm of the old clerk. There was an unmarried student living here as a superintendent but after entering into wedlock she has left this place.

On any occasion be it the annual milad on some visitors coming to the college or so on the students have to pool in their resources.

This is perhaps the only college of the country with the unique record of holding the college test exams from the 14th of Feb last and finishing it on the 5th of this month. Informed sources allege that answer scripts too were not marked properly and the Board authorities should look into it. In order to force the students to take private tuitions at the college premises the scripts were under marked.

Perhaps this is also the only college of the country where the students were forced to pay Tk. 600 as coaching fees, whether they needed it or not as the Principal refused to let them fill up their forms without this fee.

Said a guardian, 'My daughter does not need private coaching but the Principal insisted that I must pay this or else she will not send my daughter's paper to the Board. The Principal further said that this is a poor college and we all must pay this to the college. If not Tk 600 per

student some amount will have to be paid.'

What kind of rule is this? Moreover in Islamic Mahila College each and every student had to pay Tk 26 per practical whereas the Board charge is much lower. The same thing happened to exams fees. A mother having two daughters one in Eden and one in Islamia said, 'for my daughter at Eden Girls College I had to pay a fee of Tk 249 only whereas at Islamic Mahila College it was more than Tk. 500. For Home Economics part-1 they charged Tk. 52 and for the second part Tk. 72 as practical fees.'

The principal of the college misbehaves with the guardians it is alleged. In the name of 'Islam' she is out to cash money. Without having Commerce group in her college two years back she had admitted two girls in this group. As time rolled by she assured them that teachers and more students would come. But after six months she told the two students to join the Humanities group. One of them left the other is sitting for the HSC exam from the Humanities group. The one who had earlier left last week came to collect her registration number only to learn that it had not come. On query she was abused by the college authorities like anything. The girl was in tears

finding two years a total waste. But the concerned college authorities were unconcerned.

Most lecturers are not fit to be teachers. The Head of the Dept of Science comes to the class with a chemistry note book. She cannot solve any equation. The maths teacher had once remarked in her class that her primary duty was to look after her family and not teach. There is no laboratory either for the science subjects or Home Economics.

Recently a teacher of English was recruited without advertisement or proper interview. The students who shall be sitting for the HSC exam in June where without English teacher for the whole of first year.

Yet this college is running. It is time that the Ministry and the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Dhaka should look into the matter. No one has the right to play with the future of its students or tax the parents with unnecessary unjustified fees. Although in the last HSC exams only two out of ten students passed yet instead of trying to improve the quality of teacher the principal has brought a music class and girls have to attend singing classes although this is not their exam paper. Will some one investigate what is going on there?