

Admission Crisis

The percentage of students passing SSC examination this year is less than that of the previous year. But that is no relief for the snowballing problem over the next step of these 'successful' students — admission into colleges. It is a messy milieu marked by worried student and their parents' anxiety and government's rather thoughtless approach to the matter. A study by a relevant government agency put the number of those who would be robbed of college education this year at more than ninety thousand. The instant response to take care of the problem of such an ever growing huge population might be a temptation to set up more colleges. But this, we are afraid, may not be the solution. Because there are many colleges across the country that are going untried, unpeopled every year. Besides, the great rush of admission seekers that we see after the SSC examination every year centres round only a few choice colleges. We suggest the government don't fall for the easy option of concentrating only on establishing more institutions for conventional college education. Instead it should go for more institutions of vocational training. The accent should be on institutions that impart life skills. There should be more computer training centres across the country. Here we would counsel the government to seek cooperation from the private sector. Already quite a few have arrived. But they are too few in the context of our educated population and the cost is still far too high for most to avail it. Arrival of more life skills oriented institutions will not only address the stifling situation in the post SSC scenario but will also bring the much missed element of competition in this sector. There is great deal the government can do to get rid of this accommodation problem as well as to develop human resources by being focused on the global trend and not chickening out to the challenge of big spending for this purpose.