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পৃষ্ঠা... কলাম... ..

City's Kindergarten Schools

Every now and then we see a new Kindergarten school coming up in Dhaka and other cities and all in the private sector. These are called Kindergarten schools. The word Kindergarten is German, meaning children's gardens. The very name suggests that children are like flowers in the garden. The school helps in developing their talents in the same way as a flower plant is nurtured in the garden to unfold its petals and allow it to bloom fully and to spread fragrance, all over. The reason for the spread of a very large number of such schools is that facilities for children's education in our country is too inadequate. That is why one finds sign-boards popping up on the road in different parts of the city indicating the presence of a Kindergarten School. But apart from exorbitant tuition fees and many other sundry charges, the curriculum of most of these schools is much too heavy for the children. Also the children return from school carrying a cart-load of homeworks and they feel tired and overburdened.

The motive allegedly behind running most of these schools is rather commercial. Nobody would, however, object to it. Every such public institution has to have its financial back-up which is provided by tuition fees or other kinds of legitimate revenue. But the fantastic rates of fees, 5 to 6 times those in traditional schools, are indefensible. Even some schools compel the students to purchase books, exercise books, stationery and even uniforms from their schools. These are ordinarily available at a fairer price in the open markets.

Such complaints have been frequently received by us and we would expect the school authorities to rationalise the rates of fees etc. to enable more children from the lower and middle-class to get the benefit of education from these schools.

Anything elitist of the kind these schools are developing into however should not be allowed to grow in the sphere of education. And in no case there should be cartels for the privileged section of society. The government also can help make these schools more accessible to the general public.