

Educating The Children Of The Better Off

The better off section of society are busy sending their children to expensive schools but, what is of concern to us is, they are sending them at too early an age for this is considered by experts as detrimental to their psychological growth. The need for children of tender age to be close to their mother is emphasised over and over by child psychologists, for it is only at the mother's knee that the true basis of all learning is acquired. Today it has become the practice among this section of society to place their young children at every early ages in schools where serious learning or learning through play, is not always skillfully administered. This is tantamount to the effective mental crippling of these small children which can result in anti-social behaviour and serious learning difficulties in later school life.

Today we have before us a frightening development as more and more pre-schoolers are forced into schools. That they are missing out on their childhood is only one aspect of it for parents, particularly mothers, are missing out on their and their baby's most precious years. In our opinion, this is a crime we are increasingly visiting on our young children and it is more than time we put a stop to it before it gets completely out of hand.

Parents of male children are apt to put more pressure on their children than are the parents of girl children, but this is only a reflection of the traditional which favours boys over girls. The main worry in parents minds, apart from gaining admission in these glorified schools is the future of their wards for now it appears to most that only English medium education and internationally recognised qualifications will do.

It has also become a social status to send children to an English tutorial in preference to a regular Bengali medium school although many parents protest that it is the fact of fewer opportunities for advancement that drives them to place their children in these schools. But that is a different factor. What concerns us is that parents are doing more damage than good to young minds and, if the reason for learning is reduced to only the need for a job, learning itself becomes hostage and, although this may serve to provide us with an English speaking educated workforce, it fails to give us the intellectual stimulus we need. In other words, we are creating an educational system that fails to provide the all-round development needed by a child.