

Dacca varsity teacher-student ratio below ideal

By Our Varsity Correspondent

The University of Dacca was once known as the 'Oxford of the East' for high standard of education. But with the change of socio-political and economic situations in the country, its standard and system of education lost its height.

The most important factor in the determination of the standard of education is the ratio of teachers and students which has been found to be far below ideal in the University of Dacca.

The Dacca University, at present, has an approximately teacher-student ratio of 1:17 (the exact number is unavailable as the admission is still going on).

The present ratio is quite encouraging compared to what it was in 72-73 session, and the university authorities are making efforts to reduce the gap further.

It may be recalled that in the early sixties, the teacher student ratio was 1:11, which was considered satisfactory even in relation to foreign universities.

After liberation, trends towards higher education increased and the number of students doubled and reached the peak during the post-liberation period. Increase of student's from 11,383 in 71-72 session to 15,281 in 72-73 called for emergency steps. The number of students, however came down to 12,076 in 75-76 session. Thus teacher-student ratio decreased from 1:21 in 72-73 session to 1:17 in 77-78 session.

With nearly 750 full time and 50 part time teachers, the University is still facing acute shortage of teachers. Nearly 250 teachers of the University are on study leave, deputation or holding govt. offices and (Continued on page 16 col. 4)

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among them the services of 40 teachers will be terminated because of their un-authorised stay abroad.

The United States, with the highest standard of education, has an average teacher-student ratio of 1:6 in the first grade universities, while the renowned Harvard University bears a ratio of 1:4. The Oxford and Cambridge Universities of England also maintain a high standard with a ratio of 1:8. In some of Indian universities the ratio varies from 1:9 to 1:20.