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'70 per cent varsity education useless'

Our JU Correspondent

Vice-Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof Kazi Saleh Ahmed has said the university passouts cannot apply the education imparted by the universities in 70 per cent cases in their service life.

Addressing the budget session of the University Senate recently the Vice-Chancellor said the University education has failed to cater to the demand of the labour market on the one hand and the university passouts are facing the problem of unemployment on the other. He held the present policy of higher education is responsible for such an undesired ironical situation.

The Vice-Chancellor said emphasis should be laid on the national demand while opening new departments in the universities. He called for determination of the number of seats in different departments considering the demand of those subjects in the labour market.

Prof Ahmed said the Jahangirnagar University authority is considering a proposal to set up a medical institute with the objective to provide medicare facilities to the rural areas of the country. He said graduates in business administration are in high demand in the country now and Jahangirnagar University is planning to open

a "business study institute". The university will send a proposal to the University Grants Commission (UGC) for the purpose, he said.

The Vice-Chancellor said the university will expand the Institute of Life Sciences and consider setting up of departments of Biochemistry and genetics keeping the demand of the nation in view.

He also emphasised the need for developing the Computer centre and the "Centre for remote sensing" of the university.

Prof Saleh Ahmed said the present education system has failed to fulfil the socio-economic demand of the country. He said higher education did not get due importance in the past and allocation for this sector was also meagre. He said the vast population cannot be converted into human resources without education which is the precondition to development. He regretted that more emphasis is being given on number than on quality education now-a-days and enrolment beyond the capacity of the educational institutions is causing deterioration of the standard of education.

The Vice-Chancellor said the students have become more interested in gaining certificates than in acquiring knowledge because education and efficiency

are not properly evaluated in their working life. This has led to increasing tendency of copying and even guardians are encouraging this unholy act in some cases, he said.

Prof Saleh Ahmed said student politics in the country is being controlled by the political parties and this prevents growing up of independent leadership.

Turning to the problem of sessions jam the Vice-Chancellor said Jahangirnagar University has taken up a project to remove sessions jam by 1992 through reducing holidays, arrangement of extra classes during holidays and through the introduction of academic calendar. He said the removal of sessions jam by 1992 will be possible if necessary funds are provided by the UGC.

The Vice-Chancellor said government allocation for Jahangirnagar University is too little to meet the demand of the growing university. He said the university has completed some development programme through severe austerity and co-ordination of some other programmes.

The Vice-Chancellor said students, teachers and employees are facing residential problems though the university is supposed to be a completely residential one. He demanded increased allocation for the

university and said a special grant of Taka 25 crore is necessary to cope with the situation.

The Vice-Chancellor noted that the university experiences heavy rush of admission seekers every year. He said the university received 28 thousand applications for admission into first year Honours courses this year though the number of seats was very poor. He said congenial atmosphere, a better teacher-student relationship and the quality of education offered by the university have attracted the attention of the countrymen.

The Vice-Chancellor said there is shortage of academic building, residential units, laboratory facilities and equipment. He said the university authority has made vain efforts to draw the attention of the higher authorities to solve the problems.

Prof Kazi Saleh Ahmed called for allocations for construction of students' dormitories to increase enrolment.

He mentioned that though enrolment of students rose by 50 per cent from 1984 to 1988 allocations of fund increased only by five per cent during the period.

A total of 2734 students studying at 16 departments under three faculties and an institute of Jahangirnagar University.