



# DU Girl's Common Room

—Snannaj Hosne Ara

Dhaka University girls students have been facing many problems.

The university has only two common rooms for about eight thousand girls students. One is located at the ground floor just inside the Sociology Department and other is housed at the 3rd floor of the Arts Building.

Between these two general common rooms, the first one is physically larger than the latter. It is about 50 feet long and 40 feet wide. The other is a very small room with limited facilities.

### COMMON ROOM FACILITIES

It is merely a common room by name as it provides nothing but spreading bad smell from unhygienic toilets.

It is not believable that the common room for thousands of girls students of this sub-continent's largest seat of learning has only three toilets (not usable); a tiny canteen some old carrom boards numbering not more than five and only four national dailies.

More interesting is the fact that there is a place for prayer inside the common room surrounding by hard-board where only one student can say prayer at a time.

Most of the students have to enjoy the common room standing on their feet due to inadequate furniture which includes a few sets of old hard sofa some tables and chairs. But all these are in a haphazard condition.

Foods available in the common room canteen is of a poor standard. A very few

students are found to take food here. Even fresh drinking water is not easily available there as there is only one water-tap.

Above all, the common room is housed at a place

where there is no scope of sunlight entering and therefore, electricity is the only means of lighting. When there is no electric supply, then naturally the place becomes dark.

Common room once was



DU girls common room—a light punishment for the girls in the absence of electricity

considered for recreational room but now it is termed as an integral part of learning.

However, it is a peculiar place where students gather to pass time during off-hour between classes. They are found generally to hold talks on various issues including personal, family affairs, love-affairs, politics, Hindi films, film stars, sports stars, cricket, examinations, results, etc.

Some are found to narrate their marital life and the role of husband, parents-in-law etc. to their close friends. Side by side some go on to criticise other's boy friends or some tactfully reveal their weaknesses.

BTV programmes including weekly drama-series are also, sometimes, subject-matter of their gossips. Some students centre their discussion on whose dress is good-looking, costly and Indian.

Despite all these exercises some students are found engaged in preparing their next class lessons or reading class notes or exchanging views about different topics of their course of studies.

Some girls students while talking to the New Nation said the common room now needs expansion as it cannot accommodate its customers. They also opined that it should be shifted to a relaxable place and provides different sorts of facilities including comfortable furniture and recreational instruments for indoor games.

Some students demand more dailies, weeklies and other periodicals for the common rooms.