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DU Gets Real

Dhaka University authorities, it seems, have decided to get real. Incredible it may sound though to education management around the world, for donkey's years country's premier seat of higher education clung to a cost structure for its students that can perhaps only be described as screaming farce. If it is price for a service we are talking then no theory of economics can justify it.

Tuition fee of Taka ten per month! Is it a joke? Absurdity is perhaps a few notches higher when it comes to dormitory charge. Taka eight! Absolutely ridiculous. Thanks to the authorities for finally letting the world know their perception of this absurdity and the absolutely pointless drainage of government resources.

This kind of purposeless and pervasive reign of subsidy in higher education is taking us nowhere. Higher education is not essentially government's obligation. And no university, not even the much less equipped ones in the private sector, let alone those abroad, is selling higher education almost for gratis. Besides, it has to be worth investing time and money both for the giver and the taker. Simple. We are all for meritocracy. Let only the meritorious and deserving students fill our universities. Lest pricing higher education is interpreted as a stumbling block for the poor but meritorious students we suggest a substantial part of a realistic university budget be spent on stipends for the more deserving but financially less privileged pupils.

We feel great many problems faced by the university currently would be taken care of once the cost is upped close enough to the actual. Paying more for dorms are likely to imbue the residents with a new sense of responsibility and accountability, a fact that might help the authorities to deal with the challenge of illegal occupancy by outsiders.