

**NO SECOND CHANCE AT PUBLIC UNIVS**

**Students shoved towards pvt univs**

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PUBLIC universities, one after another, are barring students from taking admission test for a second time, pushing many of them to receive costly private education.

At least seven universities, in the past several years, have closed the system of taking admission test for a second time.

But official information show that about a half of the Dhaka University students had their admission in the second time before authorities decided to scrap the system.

Admission seekers and their parents have criticised the newly introduced system saying that it is depriving many students of education at public universities and forcing them to take admission in costly private universities.

Refuting the allegation,

the university authorities say that allowing a second chance to old students more or less 'deprive' the first-time admission seekers.

They also argue that many students change their department after their second time admission, leaving many seats vacant.

When contacted, University Grants Commission public university division director Kh Hamidur Rahman, however, failed to provide the number of public universities which stopped allowing a second time admission test.

'University authorities at their own can decide changes in admission system,' he said.

He also refused to make comments on the students and guardians' allegation that depriving the students of a second chance would be hurdle to the study life.

Students who pass Higher Secondary Certificate rush

on to public universities to get enrolled as they maintain comparatively a better quality.

In addition, public universities are less costly and offer more residential, library, laboratory and others facilities than that of private universities and colleges.

Competition for enrolling in public university is so high that in many reputed public universities 40 to 45 applicants vie for a single seat.

Traditionally, universities allow students to appear in the admission tests for two consecutive years.

But on May 24, the Chittagong University authorities decided that admission seekers would not be allowed to sit for entry tests for a second time from 2017-18 academic session.

In the last three years, Dhaka University, Jagannath University and Rajshahi Uni-

versity put the restriction on admission.

Previously Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology, Khulna University of Engineering and Technology have also cancelled the provision of second time admission.

Students and guardians allege that new system is injustice to many admission seekers who will miss the first opportunity for different reasons including falling sick.

Rezaul Karim, who failed to get admission in public universities, said that he enrolled at a private university.

'I did not have any choice. I know it would call in more financial burden for my family,' he said.

CUET vice-chancellor Professor Mohammad Rafiqul Alam, KUET vice-chancellor Professor Muhammed Alam-

gir, RUET vice-chancellor Professor Rafiqul Alam Beg and BUET registrar NM Golam Zakaria all argued in favour of scrapping the provision saying that it would lessen the pressure of admission seekers.

They said that decision was made to stop coaching business and also to address the problem of seats falling vacant in many departments.

The new system would also bring down the number admission seekers, they said.

RUET vice-chancellor Professor Rafiqul Alam Beg said that they lose some students as they change subject in undergraduate studies as they take the admission tests for a second time.

Admitting that some students could fall sick or had some others issues, he said, 'The decision of not allowing second time admission had been made for the sake of greater interest,' he argues.