

HSC RESULTS

Rural-urban disparity persists

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RURAL students continue to lag behind their urban counterparts in terms of Higher Secondary Certificate Examination results due to acute teacher shortage and lack of libraries, laboratories and other facilities at the remote villages.

The rural students also cannot afford coaching, private tuition and guidance accessed by their urban brothers and sisters, said educationists.

Urban parents can afford to spend more on education of their children compared to those in the rural areas, they said.

Unlike the more fortunate urban students, those in the

rural areas can't even expect to get the guidance from competent teachers on how to tackle creative questions, said educationists.

Most of the 862 intermediate colleges of which less than 50 per cent students passed the HSC exams are in the rural areas.

On the other hand, most of the 848 intermediate colleges with all the students passing the HSC exams are in the urban areas, said education ministry and board officials.

Educationists called the gap between the urban and rural learners as ominous.

HSC results announced Thursday revealed that 74.70 per cent of the examinees passed the HSC and equivalent exams this year.

And 57 per cent of 48,950 students who achieved the highest Grade Point Average 5, had appeared in the exams of the Dhaka Education Board.

Then again, a large number of the GPAS scorers are from the capital, Naryanganj and Gazipur, said Dhaka board officials.

They said that 10.07 lakh students appeared in the HSC exams this year and 7.29 lakh passed.

Officials said that 33 per cent of the examinees appeared in the exams held by the Dhaka board.

The tally shows that the pass rate for the students of Dhaka board was also 33 per cent.

Professor emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury ex-

pressed concern over the huge difference in facilities enjoyed by urban and rural students.

He blamed the authorities for neglecting the rural institutions.

Meritorious students from all over the country usually rush to the capital to get admitted to intermediate colleges, said education minister Nurul Islam Nahid.

Nahid said that it would not be possible to reduce rural-urban gap overnight, the government was 'very much on the right track.'

Data of education ministry present a picture of fluctuating performance by students of rural intermediate colleges.

This year less than 50 per cent of 862 rural intermedi-

ate colleges and madrassahs passed the HSC exams.

Last year also less than 50 per cent students sent by 1,236 rural colleges and madrassahs passed the HSC exams.

In 2014 too less than 50 per cent students forwarded by 584 rural colleges and madrassahs passed the HSC exams.

At least three education board chairmen told New Age that the colleges and schools with less than 50 per cent of their students passing the HSC exams were in the countryside.

Dhaka University English Department's professor Syed Manzoorul Islam blamed shortage of qualified teachers, lack of libraries, labs and

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other facilities for the poor performance of the rural students.

No better performance could be expected from the rural students since many of their teachers themselves could not muster tackling creative questions, said Chittagong education board chairman Shaheda Islam. 11