

Allow colleges on selective basis to award degrees



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allowed to award degrees, then why the degree colleges like Dhaka College, Jagannath College, Eden College, Viharunissa College, Victoria College, MC College, BM College, Edward College, Notre Dame College and so many others should not be allowed to award degrees? After all, these colleges have been performing the teaching and examination responsibilities well for good many years. It needs to be particularly noted that there has

should include reviewing of the curricula, checking of the quality of teachers and their teaching performances, the quality of students' intake, library and laboratory facilities, class room facilities, other educational facilities in the institutions etc. An Accreditation Body/UGC should have the authority to suspend or even cancel the degree awarding authority if a college fails to maintain the standard and the required conditions.

and publishing of note books have to be stopped by law. And the college authorities will have to ensure total stoppage of private coaching before a college is granted the degree awarding authority. It is also time for entire civil society to rise against these private coaching system. Teaching must be at the college classes (the arrangement is suggested below).

Deficiencies taken care of within teaching schedule: How-

It seems necessary to give degree-awarding authority initially to the selected individual degree colleges... These colleges may be formally upgraded to universities. However, even as colleges these may be authorised to award degrees. One can easily and clearly find the justification when this is seen in the context of newly established private universities awarding degrees.

been no noticeable complaint about copying nor any malpractice in the examinations in these individual colleges. The problems start when the same students appear in the mass scale examinations run by the National University.

Evolving process: This process should be an evolving one. As the process of up-gradation of the colleges to the degree awarding level will continue and more colleges would qualify, the load of NU will continue to decrease. A time may come when NU will not have to handle the exams of any college; it may then fully concentrate on training purposes and expand its activities in all areas of training which the country lacks.

Monitoring for proper check on quality: However, there should be an appropriate monitoring system. This will require setting up of independent accreditation body based on set of rules approved by the government. The University Grants Commission (UGC) would have to be expanded suitably to take care of the government colleges, if the separation of state and private colleges is needed at all. These bodies will have to be charged with the responsibility of monitoring the quality of education. The work

Market forces: Apart from the fact that the accreditation body bodies and expanded UGC, will monitor and help maintain standard of education, the quality of the degree awarded is expected to be taken care of by the market forces too. Such degree holders from different institutions like the private universities will have to compete successfully in the market both in terms of getting jobs and finding admission for higher studies. Nowadays there is no recruitment without proper tests and no admission without admission tests. This process has indeed been working something like a national level check of the standard of education.

Changes in teaching system: This would, however, warrant changes in the system of teaching in the colleges. At present there is a widespread practice of private coaching at colleges and schools. Indeed, private coaching has replaced normal class room teaching at colleges and schools. Some of the teachers who are involved in private coaching reportedly take very little interest in teaching in the colleges. They also reportedly indulge in divulging the question papers so that more students join private coaching. This has indeed been corroding the entire education system. Therefore, private coaching

ever, some students do face deficiencies and they need some extra support. Such a support should be scheduled officially within the teaching schedule of a teacher. A teacher teaching a particular course should give at least two/three hours office time per week to cover the deficiencies that some of the students may have. This has to be taken within a teacher's teaching hours. This is done in the US universities. So this has to be formally introduced in the teachers' teaching schedule so that s/he is paid for it. This system will stop private coaching. The private coaching must stop under any circumstance to allow level playing field to all students as most of the students cannot afford private coaching.

Students allowed to see answer scripts: The students should be free to see their answer scripts after grading is done by the teachers with a view to ascertaining whether his/her answers were assessed properly. Such a system will also stop copying and other forms of cheating at the examination halls, the teacher grading the scripts will be able to detect any cheating. This new system will also cut the long delays in grading the answers and announcing the results. This will gradually end the session jams.

Changes in system of examination: The system of examination should also be changed. Instead of judging a student on the basis of his/her final examination after two years or so, the system of quarterly examinations and the performances therein should be fully taken into account while finally grading a student. This will, however, require arranging the teaching on semester or quarterly basis by dividing the courses appropriately. Such a

receive right kind of education. They finally appear in the mass scale exams and go for cheating. As there are already many such schools and colleges, the percentage of failure generally remains very high.

Credit hour system: All degree institutions should try to adopt teaching on credit hour basis. Normally Undergraduate degrees should be awarded on completion of 124 credits and Masters around 30-36 credits depending research/project papers taken. However, MBA is mostly on 60-credit hours basis, but shorter MBA could be 48 credit hours. The advantage of semester and credit hour system is that one can discontinue studies at a particular stage for any reason and resume studies where already earned credits can be added up to complete the full credit hours for a degree.

Pay of teachers: It is important that the teachers are paid duly for the job they perform. Though there is highest allocation of funds to the education sector, the teachers' pay remains less than desirable. One suspects misuse of funds. The teachers' pay and allowances should be appropriately increased.

School education: It is true that the quality of education in the universities depends on the education the students receive at the schools. The School Boards have also been suffering from lack of credibility. Also for all the reasons mentioned about college education, the authorities should seriously consider allowing the schools (the process to continue on selective basis) also to award school leaving certificates to the successful students. However, a national body will have to work out the curricula, the types of books to be used (there may be more than one book on each subject instead of preparing one book for a subject by the Text Book Board, revision of the text books for political purposes every year should stop), examination system in the schools. These are only broad outlines for the proposed school-system but details are to be worked out by the experts.

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Effect of starch in dengue shock syndrome Indonesian experience

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DENGUE Haemorrhagic Fever (DHF) or Dengue Shock Syndrome (DSS) is the most important problem in Bangladesh at present. It is a self-limiting disease. Its clinical course and natural history is unpredictable. Its main pathophysiology is vasculopathy, coagulopathy, changes of cellular and humoral immunology.

Dengue is epidemic in central Africa, south-east Asia, Pacific islands and north Australia. Clinical manifestations include Hemoconcentration, Hypoproteinaemia, Hypoalbuminaemia, shock and hemorrhage. Four types of Flaviviruses with their main vector aedes aegypti mosquito are responsible for this fatal disease. Capillary leakage occurs due to antibody-dependent enhancement. Also there is endothelial cell activation which is induced by virus, bacteria, cytokines, oxidized LDL and B or T cell activation.

Diagnosis of shock is made by thready pulse, cold clammy sign, altered mental status, unstable BP, cyanosis etc. In the secondary or tertiary stage compensatory mechanism fails. So the goal of shock therapy should be to optimize and maintain body's metabolic requirements by good tissue perfusion. And that is done by fluid resuscitation which will increase oxygen delivery to tissue, blood pressure, oxygen consumption and will reverse lactic acidosis.

Until now, crystalloids (normal saline, ringer's lactate etc.) are the first choice for DSS (WHO 1997). Crystalloids are cheaper having limited effect on intra-vascular volume preservation as it is rapidly distributed between the intra and extra vascular compartments.

On the other hand, colloids offer better intra-vascular volume expansion. Among the colloids, starches are the most effective volume expander which is presumed to have a plugging effect on vessels to decrease vascular leakage. Starch solutions also reduce endothelial damage and major organ dysfunction.

In the department of child health, Dr Kariadi Hospital and Elizabeth Hospital, Semarang, Indonesia, a prospective randomized clinical trial was conducted by Dr Tatty Ermin Setiati and Augustinus Soemantri to find out the effect of volume therapy with starch on DSS in comparison to Ringer's Lactate (RL).

In group I (control group) RL was given (20-60 ml/kgBw) and in group II (study group) hydroxy ethyl starch 6% was given (10-30ml/kgBw). Every group included 30 patients of Dengue Shock Syndrome (DSS) without major organ dysfunction. Diagnosis of DSS was done by WHO criteria, HI test and Dengue Blot IgM/IgG.

Co-comparison between Control and Protocol group			
	Control	Protocol	p Value
Duration of shock	7.9 ± 2.8	2.3 ± 1.3	< 0.001
Total amount of fluid resuscitation	1289 ± 364	420 ± 96	< 0.001
PICU length of stay (days)	14 ± 2.05	7.20 ± 1.28	0.000
Ventilators (days)	8 ± 1.10	4.00 ± 0.71	< 0.05
Mortality rate (%)	26.07	6.67	
Blood Component Need	30	7	

Severity of DIC (25%) and Pleural effusion (70%) were 4 times and 9 times higher respectively in group I than group II. Though hemodilution (reversible) occurred in 30% cases in group II, no anaphylactoid reaction was found in this study.

So the duration of shock was significantly low in protocol group. Also to stabilize hemodynamic status group I needed more fluids and longer period. They needed more blood components.

In conclusion, starch 6% has beneficial effects as initial fluid resuscitation for the patients with Dengue shock syndrome on reducing mortality, duration of shock, length of ICU stay, ventilator day, organ dysfunction and has a good intra-vascular preservation in comparison to Ringer's lactate solution as a standard therapy for DSS.

Source: Department of Child Health, Med. Faculty Diponegoro University, Dr Kariadi Hospital, Semarang, Central Java, Indonesia.

Development is culture oriented

MD. RAFIQU L ISLAM

BOOK REVIEW

A book on "Issues in Training and Development" by Dr. Saadat Hussain published in January 2002 from New Age publication focuses largely on the need of training for professionals involved in development. The book, at the same time, unveils the author's quest for enabling environment for good governance by human resource development and scientific management. The author pleads for capacity building for the highly professional. On the other hand, the author raises the need for empowering the disadvantaged sections of the population. The book contains seventeen articles which were published in different journals. The articles may be arranged into two groups. One is for the researchers and professionals. And the other is for the common readers. Policy planners, development practitioners, management personnel,

"Sustainable development is distinct from 'dirty growth'. The former makes life wealthy, peaceful and enjoyable. The latter may import richness much to the exclusion of peace and harmony in society. Chaotic growth consumes the peace and comfort of individuals. The quality of life may therefore suffer because of insecurity and imbalance"...."The social system here is working against economic development. The extended family structure and the social obligation to maintain the idlers in the family are eroding the income of the family, punishing the hard working member and creating a low-income trap for the family."

academics and trainers may find the book very useful. The general readers may also find it helpful to develop their ideas and conception in the area.

The author highlights the issue that the researcher's job is to restore the truths from the myth. He writes in the foreword of the book "Slogans, clichés and popular misconception dominate our lives and thought process. But they are far removed from reality. Researcher's job is to break the myth, focus on the truth and establish it firmly in our thoughts and actions." The author emphasises that empirical study is a

powerful instrument in the pursuit of the knowledge. Problems that undermine the credibility of the empirical studies need to be researched in the interest of acquiring new ideas and knowledge while discussing "The relevance and problems of empirical studies in Bangladesh."

Working experience over the time establishes the truth that training is an essential pre-condition for human resource developments as it brings about a remarkable change of knowledge, skill and attitude of trainees which is appropriate to their work culture. "Role of

professional training society" is an important essay in the book. Regarding the prerequisites of development the author prioritizes immaterial aspect of it quoting Schumacher: "The primary causes of extreme poverty are immaterial, they lie in certain deficiencies in education, organisation and discipline" (Schumacher, 1974: 140). He goes further to state: "Development does not start with goods; it starts with people and their education, organisation, and discipline. Without these three, all resources remain latent, untapped, potential." There is enough room for enhancing professional skill with training, motivation, networking both inside and outside the country, maintaining solidarity of the professionals. Of these essential elements of human resource development, training deserves importance. Training provides scope for diminishing the gap created by low standard of education in the context of Bangladesh.

The author has given proper attention to the need for quality training in the last article of the book. For effective training the author suggests for assessment of post training utilisation and for taking follow up actions in line with the need of fine tuning, upgrading and redesigning the instructions. Exposure to the external evaluation and performance rating are required qualifications needed for confidence building of the personnel working in the training institutions. The author observes, "Routine training courses organised in training academies may justify the existence of these institutions. But they cannot meet the challenge of the millennium. For that we need quality training which can be delivered only if concerned parties – the employer, trainees and trainers – are aware of and are committed to it."

Training and management are inter-related. Effective training ensures quality management. Weak management is like malnutrition which does not kill one instantly but leads towards death gradually. On the other hand, good management pulls out the collective resources of the nation. Thus training and management have far reaching implications on good governance.

Now let's have a look at the article related to socio-economic and administrative aspects. Bangladesh started development late, is the view point depicted in the article under the heading, "Bangladesh: Laggard or late starter". According to the author Bangladesh started its development from the very womb of underdevelopment. Frustration of some people stems from the fact

that they did not find the rate of growth as high as some south-east Asian countries like Korea. In reality, Bangladesh is ahead of some countries like Tanzania and Kenya who had higher per capita income during sixties. As a matter of fact, Korea was ahead of Bangladesh according to some important economic indicators during mid sixties. However, the readers will be happy with statement of the author that Bangladesh was proceeding to the right direction since its start for economic development. In all considerations Bangladesh can be called a late starter not the laggard.

People longing for super-speed in economic growth cannot wait for steady and sustainable development. Hence, development must be attained at any cost. On the other hand, the people who like to see sustainable or safe speed go by the maxim "More the haste, less the speed". The author prefers safe speed and makes his point "Sustainable development is distinct from 'dirty growth'. The former makes life wealthy, peaceful and enjoyable. The latter may import richness much to the exclusion of peace and harmony in society. Chaotic growth consumes the peace and comfort of individuals. The quality of life may therefore suffer because of insecurity and imbalance". Most people cannot afford to surrender peace at the altar of super-speed.

An interesting essay compiled in the book is "Story about the layabouts." The study is based on the data collected from 17 unions of Comilla and Noakhali districts. The layabouts are the able bodied young people living on extended family resources. They have no habits of work. Gossiping, playing card, spending lazy time, staying in the village tea stall, picking up quarrels with the neighbours and family members, hobnobbing with the undesirable elements, selling of family property are both the characteristics and life style of the layabouts. They create lot of family hazards. The author observes that "The social system here is working against economic development. The extended family structure and the social obligation to maintain the idlers in the family are eroding the income of the family, punishing the hard working member and creating a low-income trap for the family." So, he pleads for an in-depth study of the nature and the extent of problems caused by the layabouts. He urges to the policy planners to make provision in the national plan for bringing these unproductive forces towards participation in economic activities by way of training and motivation.

A well reading article regarding

"The survival strategies of the people of the village Karaikandi" of Daudkandi upazila of Comilla, tells about the daily struggle of the villagers during the flood. This is a village which represents thousands of villages and people living with innumerable odds during floods. The article is about struggle for housing, living requisite of the villagers, their way of living and fighting all the odds during the devastated flood of 1998. In spite of all the unexpected odds accompanied with the flood, no incidence of death and snake biting was reported. The villagers used indigenous strategies learnt from the past flood experiences for their survival. Perseverance, hard work, tenacity, confidence and brevity are the weapons which are immaterial. These precious and immaterial possessions helped their survival. They survived with all dignity without a little help from the government and non-government sources. Here, these hard working villagers disseminate knowledge for those who are obsessed with the need of outside help for personal and national cause.

The essays under the title "A Critical Analysis of the Institution of the Deputy Commissioner in Bangladesh" and "Total Literacy Movement (TLM)" narrate about the role of Deputy Commissioner as representative of central government in the district and his role in the social sector development. It was shown in the study that a well-trained Deputy Commissioner can contribute and help to ensure good governance. Appropriate management system, right recruitment of teachers and supervisors, community involvement, social pressure on learners, emotional attachment of Deputy Commissioner and his colleagues in the programme are some of the factors behind the successful implementation of TLM in some districts. He observes that successful implementation of TLM in all the districts will make a positive contribution towards human resource development in Bangladesh.

Development is always culture oriented. Unfortunately the author paid little attention to it. Similarly, political upheavals influence development significantly but this aspect has not been addressed adequately. Even then, one cannot but appreciate the author's devotion and labour for bringing some hidden but real aspects prevailing in Bangladesh with indomitable courage.

The author is a bureaucrat by profession. Moreover, his association with different academies, training institutions both at home and abroad, representing the government in a number of international conferences and his deep interest in social science research helped him a lot to present his findings in a very scientific and articulated manner. The language is lucid and simple. We hope the readers will be highly benefited by the book.

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