'Private universities: is it paying off?'

Thanks a lot to Elita Karim for the cover story of last week regarding private education. It was really a sign of creativity where the development of private education in the job market along with the changing view of the last two decades was reflected truly.

But the whole story was limited to Business Studies and some Engineering sides while research jobs based on pure science were not mentioned. In spite of being popular in the job market, private universities have yet to go far with a view to reaching the standard of some reputed public universities. In the case of their big amount of tuition fees, the writer said about the parents' wish of making huge investment for their children's study. But the reality is that to make such an investment is hardly possible for most of the parents of our country.

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I do not believe that the recent Star Weekend Magazine (March 31, 2006) article titled "Doorway to a Brighter Future" portrayed the unqualified truth when it quoted a certain NSU graduate saying."Back then, those who were unable to get a seat in the public institutes, made their way to NSU... the curriculum was still developing and most of the kids just wanted to transfer their credits abroad to complete a foreign degree..."

Many of the students who enrolled in the three semesters of 1993 had already secured admission in prestigious public universities. In the very first semester at NSU, there were at least three students who placed within the top ten in the HSC exam. We wanted to spend the most significantly defining years of our lives in a well-designed, adequately resourced, aptly modernised, strongly directional and true equal opportunity education system free of petty politics, corruption and counter-productive bureaucracies.

It is our collective responsibility to take a conscious stand against any misleading and derogatory comments made against us in public media.

Masrur Rishad Khan
NSU-93, an alumni association of North South University graduates who enrolled in 1993.

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The last SWM published a good cover story describing the possibility of being established after graduating from a private university. But private universities, being the only alternative to public universities, are the privilege for those who can afford it.

The number of seats in public universities is too few to meet the demand of the growing number of students. Solvent parents admit their children into private universities to provide decent education for them. It seems that a decent education is becoming a privilege for the rich.

Our government spends a huge chunk of their annual budget on education. But can they mention any advancement? The number of seats in public universities is too few to meet the demand of the growing number of students. Solvent parents admit their children into private universities to provide decent education for them. It seems that a decent education is becoming a privilege for the rich. We request our government to take up the issue of our education putting a side their petty politics.

Muhitur Rahman
Student

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Private education has become big business these days. The limited seats in the public universities lead the students to go to the private universities. It is quite appreciable that the fresh graduates from the private universities are getting lucrative jobs.

But when most of the people of our country live below the poverty line what will happen to the common students? It costs about 3 to 4 lakh taka to study in a private university. I think the huge tuition fees create tremendous pressure on the guardians.

The Daily *Prothom Alo* also revealed that 29 out of 54 private universities have no VC. When the leading position is vacant what will happen to the standard of education?

I think private universities are producing successful graduates who come from well-off families but it is still a dream of the common student to study in a public university.

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