

Students have become overly notes-oriented, focusing more on memorisation rather than actually learning.

early." There seems to be a mad rush for syllabuses to be finished early, and this is a major reason for hours of after-schoolwork. This is when the blame is put directly on the parents' shoulders. They seem to push their children too hard, and in the process eat up all their leisure time with hours and hours of private coaching. There is no denying the fact that the teacher-student ratio does not matter while students who are extra bright can absorb the lesson very easily, for many back-seaters it is impossible to get the extra attention they need to cope. Extra tutoring seems the only answer.

Many schoolteachers also blame the parents. They say that even the coaching centres have 20 to 30 students per class. Parents' complaints that schools are over crowded are not backed up with the fact that the coaching centres that they send their children to are just as crowded as the schools. One well-known teacher of economics has 40 students per batch, and even teaches through the help of a microphone. Hossain states, "At the coaching centres it's all short-cut help. There is no real teaching there, all the help is note based, it's an easy fix, that's why they go there."

But she also has other issues with the coaching culture. She says, "The National Curriculum Textbook Board (NCTB) should take on a lot of the blame. Their system is based on memorisation. It's book based and lacks originality, in turn students lose their creativity." While this reason had been mentioned before, in the standoff between parents and schools, it is hardly ever brought up. Truth be told the current Bangla Medium system is riddled with flaws, it would be a sweeping statement to say that it needs to be overhauled, but that's exactly what needs to be done. The answers to the type of questions asked have to be memorised, students are not required to think analytically. This is the by-product of a teaching structure entrenched in shoving information down students throats. The whole issue comes full circle when students attend numerous after school coaching centres. There they are handed the easy way out with notes to memorise, in the process they are left with little or no free time at all. So where does one really point the finger? The schools are merely teaching a syllabus that encourages extra and unnecessary work, while parents add fuel to the fire by forcing their children to finish those very same flawed syllabuses early.

While the government allotted system has let down Bangla Medium schools, there are just as many complaints with private English Medium schools. Parents complain of over crowding in classes of 35, little do they know how much better off their children are from Bangla Medium schools.

On the topic of extra classes Syed Fakhruddin Ahmed Chairperson of Mastermind School says, "This is rooted into our culture, we rely more on getting information rather than analysing." This logic has often been thrown back to parents and students that complain about overburdening. He says, "Parents can be good counsellors, but they don't analyse why their children need extra teachers. Instead the first thing they do is blame the schools." His point is noted, but also leads to other questions. Do all parents really complain about their children's' routines? A vast number of parents are not satisfied till their children have taken on extra teachers, they merely assume that more teachers will help their children academically. Ahmed says, "Western education brings out the creative part of the students mind. That is what we need. Instead we are stuck with a 'celebrity teacher culture', where a few famous teachers claim they can help any student get an A. The result is, guardians as well as students rush to them for extra classes. But at the end of the day, if the process of learning was geared