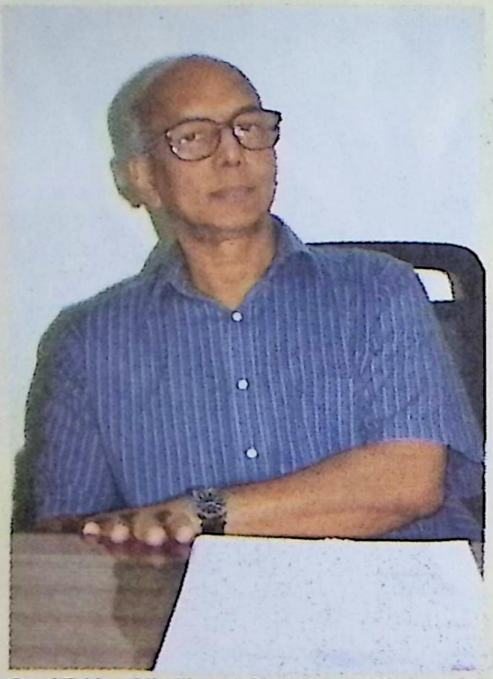


Syed Fakhruddin Ahmed, Chairperson, Mastermind School.

"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 to creative output, then this would not be the case."

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He boldly states, "70% of parents rely on private tutoring without knowing what they are doing, and as a result the people who suffer are their children." But even statements like that have been refuted, a well known private teacher, who wishes to remain anonymous, says, "While the parents are to blame in some cases, from my point of view, it looks like most of the students themselves push their parents to let them join private classes. Even some very bright students come to my classes because they simply lack confidence. They do not need extra classes and extra pressure." That is another aspect that needs to be looked into, the coaching culture cannot entirely be blamed on parents and schools. What of the very bright students killing themselves attending extra classes, how or why are they pushed to the brink?

About the criticism regarding class sizes and attention given by teachers Fakhruddin Ahmed says, "I have talked to parents and offered them an alternative to their problem. They spend roughly Tk 6000 a month on extra teachers, if they



Schools provide the environment for socialising too.