In her thinking, gesture and posture, she is the perfect symbol of a teacher, which many of the young teacher lack, who became teacher not by choice, but by chance.

Coming from a remote village of Tangail, Dr. Abdullah Al Faruque completed his Honours and Masters from Law Department of Dhaka University. Then he completed his Ph.D. on natural resources law from Dundee University of UK. He is very much committed to teaching and research. Although he has good offer from outside, but he always feels very comfortable with the teaching.

Unfortunately, qualified young teachers like Dr. Abdullah Al Faruque and Masrufa Ayesha Nusrat are not many in number. Many meritorious students prefer job of private firm, multinational company or non-governmental organisation because of their lucrative salary package. One may raise the question, if lucrative salary is the only consideration, one should not come to teaching profession, because it is more than a profession. If one does not have highest urge for acquiring and distributing knowledge, s/he should not come to the academic world. We, at the same time, cannot overlook the counter argument, which tells that if the teachers are not provided with sufficient salary and logistics, they will be busy with thinking how they will run the family. It will jeopardize their pursuit of knowledge and also its dissemination among the students. The policy makers, I hope, will consider the challenges encountered by the young teachers. They should be provided with sufficient logistics, training and scholarships. If the young teachers, who have to shoulder the prime responsibility of imparting knowledge in the universities, are not prepared with modern tools and instruments of education and research, how can we expect to elevate the standard of education?

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Teacher's vision and mission: Pick-up from Pickering

Dr Binoy Barman

SINCE George Pickering, an educational trainer and consultant from UK, suggested at a workshop recently that teachers should have vision and mission of their own, and that they must perform their professional responsibilities accordingly, I was getting reverberations of his words inside my head. He was right. Really, the teachers, at any level they may be placed -- primary, secondary or tertiary, to any organisation they may be affiliated -- government or non-government, should take a vision first, and then make a mission of it. But how may we define vision and mission? Vision and mission are nearly synonymous and sometimes it is difficult to distinguish between the two. Generally, vision is any idea or mental image of something, and mission is any work that someone believes to be his/her duty. With a bit extension of the definition, we can say, vision is the dream of future as someone would like to see, and mission is the agenda to materialise that dream. Vision is visualised as ideal idyllic atmosphere while mission is actualised through plans and actions. Both are closely associated and go hand in hand. There might be vision without mission, or mission without vision. But separately those are not probably as strong as might be in combination.

But what specific visions the individual teachers may have in them? Or the collective vision which an institution or a society may have as a whole? Well, at the individual level, one may have the vision of worthy citizens with humane feelings or future generation well-versed in foreign languages as well as mother tongue. At the institutional level, it may be imparting knowledge to learners and producing good graduates with globally competitive edge. At the top echelon of collective consciousness, it may be a society free from illiteracy and ignorance, or a society full of honest and industrious people, or even a nation that is patriotic and dedicated to welfare. After the vision is clear and well-defined, the teachers now, individually or collectively, may set a mission which puts them in motion. It drives them to the lofty ideas and ideals already envisioned, ensuring teachers' service to society. Teachers' vision and mission are not driven by mere money or personal benefit, as some might mistakenly suppose.

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