Response to our universities

I myself don't agree with all the points of the article entitled 'Our Universities' by Sheikh Md. Shafayet Jamil.

He has talked about 'research'the prime objective of university education. I completely agree with this point. Actually, it is all about 'research' that can differentiate university education from primary level education. As a nation, we are missing it that leads us to borrow ready-made ideas from other developed countries, which are not our own. He has also pointed out his fingers towards university teachers who are thought to lead the nation forward through their 'research'. But, in reality, university teachers carry on research to serve their own purposes.

The writer has demanded university's responsibility to unearth the hidden brilliance of a student. I strongly oppose this concept. University can play a minor role here. The most prestigious university and the high profile academician of the world can't make a student skilled, well-educated overnight until and unless inquisitiveness works within that particular student.

He has accused that private universities only offer market oriented disciplines and there are scarcity of research materials, full-time teaching staffs, lab facilities and permanent campus. He doesn't seem to know how much money government is spending for the betterment of public universities. In every fiscal year, a huge sum of money is being allocated for the development of education sector. On the other hand, private universities are run by contributions from the students. It is not an easy job to run an organization like a private university.

Lack of research and lab facilities in private universities is not right from the truest sense of the term. I won't demand that all private universities are having facilities properly. But, it is true that some private universities are providing better research and lab facilities than a few public ones.

Private universities have no shortage of permanent teaching staffs. Students complete their education within usual duration. Private universities are holding more classes, class-tests, assignments unlike public ones. If it had been true, private universities would not have functioned so smoothly where students don't find a single day session jam.

Private universities might have faults, but there are more positive characteristics than the negative ones that should-n't be denied in any case.

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I agree with the writer that most of our universities cannot provide sufficient research materials. Even in student life our universities do not have sufficient access to reach necessary books. Many of our reputed teachers' books are published abroad that are available in foreign university libraries but we, the direct students need to buy those books online. These necessary books are supposed to be collected by the university authority. After completing graduation if a student wants to go for research work he or she needs to learn it through his/her work, which hinders smooth progress. Universities should include a particular course on real life research works that would include practical works along with theoretical knowledge. Only the top departments of reputed public universities have their own research centers. Most of the private universities are far behind in this course. We need a higher number of universities to offer higher education for the mass population but they should maintain a minimum standard that must be set by the government. Hence, in this context I disagree with the writer.

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