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Choice of private university admission: Some variables

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It is impossible to accommodate all good students in public universities. But we were shocked to see that majority of students with brilliant results in SSC and HSC level were unsuccessful to get admission into Dhaka University. It is obvious that all of the above students can not be accommodated in Dhaka University, but that many of those brilliant students will not obtain pass marks is incredible. Policy makers of the education sector should identify the causes thereof.

We have no ranking system to evaluate the status of the universities. However, we do not have much of a problem with the public universities. Problems lie with the private universities. UGC warned us about the state of private universities. At present there are 83 private universities in Bangladesh and some more are in the pipeline. But the question is which university one may choose and what would be the variable factors to get admission into those universities.

Our private universities are running as per private university Act 2010. According to the Act, they are supposed to be non-profit organizations. But all private universities are not known to be following the law. We see many of the universities involved in ownership conflict and are collecting high tuition fees from the students. Since there is no uniform rule for tuition and other fees, they collect fees in the name of lab, library, development etc. These are the variable charges of the universities.

I visited Nilkhet recently and was surprised to find that anyone can buy a thesis/ dissertation by paying printing cost only. Normally BBA/ MBA students do project works or internship at different banks, financial institutions, telecom and multinational companies etc. After completing their internship, interns have to write a report. But surprisingly such reports are available in the market. One can use them by changing the name and student ID. Many top ranking university libraries installed a software and maintain an institutional repository to stop piracy. A librarian can play an important role to place it in the web by applying open Source software like DSpace or customized software. In this way, the librarian can contribute to his/her respective organization by building institutional repository to enhance quality education. So admission seekers have to identify whether a university has anti-piracy tool or institutional repository.

Faculty members are one of the main variable factors of universities. So a guardian has the responsibility to identify the quality of teachers and their background as they choose a particular university for his/her ward.



Few private universities are particular subject focused. Normally EEE, CSE are very preferred subjects in engineering. BBA is another market oriented discipline. Admission seekers in EEE should be focused on the number of practical lab classes in the university on Electrical Circuits, Electrical Machines, Power Systems, Electrical Utilization, Electrical Workshop, Switchgear, Electronic Workshop, Digital Electronics, Industrial Electronics, Microwave and Telecommunication, VLSI Circuits, Measurement and Instrumentation, Control, Microprocessor and Micro-Controller Systems, Physics, Simulation, Biomedical Engineering Lab, Device Lab, Image processing Lab, PCB Lab etc. Even in CSE following Lab should be there Micro Computer, Networking Lab, Multimedia Lab, Microprocessor and Computer Hardware, Software Development, Internet and Web Development, Cisco, Sun Solaris etc.

Library is the heart of any educational Institution. From Bangladesh perspective there should be online journals along with printed publications, original books, good quantity of books for lending, sufficient newspapers, magazines, library automation, best use of technologies, enough budget and a group of professional people. Before seeking admission a student should visit first the library of the university and check its quality.

Every university has to do some promotional campaigns to attract the students. One will see many university banners in different parts of the city. Banner, newspaper and television advertisements portraying the merits of the universities are required to motivate the admission seekers.

Lot depends on who are running the university, their motive, vision, mission, etc. Recognized universities allow number of opportunities to faculty and staff members, like, two days' weekend, semester break holidays and other non-cash benefits. Public Universities and government organizations and good corporate organizations enjoy two days' weekend. But few private universities get these opportunities. As per my personal observation, employees are unhappy. As a result, their efficiency is much below the expected level. So before getting admission students/guardians should look into these elements also.

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