Cheating in public examinations

TIB Newsletter Year 5 March 2001

The young generation of today is the nation builders of tomorrow. When this young generation resorts to cheating as a means of excelling academically the nation is faced with a bleak future. Cheating has spread like an epidemic in our public examinations, especially in the rural areas of the country. The examinee, the guardian, teachers, friends and even policemen engage themselves in the act of cheating. Teachers and guardians irrespective of their age, fail to realize that cheating is equivalent of stealing and thus equally shameful. Education is the foundation of a nation – the first and one of the most important steps to progress. Education means knowing your present and past, your society, your country and the world. It gives you the ability to plan your future, to gain knowledge and humane qualities and teaches you to be innovative. Neither individuals nor nations can be successful without a concrete education. In any venture for establishing democracy, equal participation of men and women, transparency, accountability and good governance in all stages of our society and state, we first need higher education. Cheating in public examinations poses one of the major impediments in this effort.

In Bangladesh cheating in the public examinations existed even in the old days. In the nineteenth century, the Dhaka Prakash, a newspaper published from Dhaka occasionally highlighted, along with other stories, news about cheating in examinations. The Report of the Humoodur Rahman Commission, which was formed in 1964, also expressed concern at the cheating and malpractices in examinations. The Dr. Kudrat-e-Khuda Education Commission Report of 1974 stated expressed concern at the cheating and malpractices in examinations. The Report of the National Education Commission also commented that the cheating and malpractices have become a part of the system. It is not that the examinees are the only guilty, teachers and teachers and guardians irrespective of their age, fail to realize that cheating is equivalent of stealing and thus equally shameful.

In this context it is very gratifying to know that the TIB has started a drive against the menace of cheating. TIB is working towards curbing corruption, which is undoubtedly take back, by any means, twicethrice of what they spend. The elections must be free, fair and neutral in the interest of democracy. Thanks to TIB. The TIB Newsletter Year 5 March 2001 issue for publishing an editorial on this subject.

M. A. Karim
Hafizur, Chittagong

VIP Corruption

Even if minor cases of corruption have occasionally been brought to justice, nothing happens in the case of corruption by VIPs. One cannot reiterate that the politicians patronize these corrupt people. People with illegals, arms, terrorists, arms dealers and drug and gold smugglers all enjoy the blessings of politicians, directly or indirectly. These politicians are there for a reason. They will not be able to nab them even by enacting the Public Security Act. This is because, as the saying goes, ‘you pull the ear and the whole head comes’—in this case it is the neck and also the body that is bound to come. And therefore, corruption by VIPs remains uncurbed, and perhaps will remain so for ever. We want an end to this.

Particulars:

Punishment for the corrupt

It can be seen from TIB’s list of corrupt practices for the period July - December 2000 that corruption in the Police, health sector and by class I government servants has cost the Government 5500 core taka. If that be the figure for 6 months, then the total for the full term of this Government is a matter of great concern. Corruption at this rate casts a negative influence on the global economy. It is said that the heavy burden that widespread corruption places on poverty is a threat to the economic future of this region, affecting the region’s economic architecture.

Showkat Rashid Mamoon
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Accountability of the Government

Recently, the World Bank and other donor agencies have identified corruption as the main problem for Bangladesh. In some reports, it has been even said that if corruption is checked, the growth rate can be effectively doubled. There has however been no forward movement in checking corruption. TIB is working towards curbing corruption, which is undoubtedly a matter of great concern. The real issue however is whether the Government is bound to deliver or not. The Government must be neutral in the interest of national elections. Who shall we see in the next Parliament? Will the new faces be dominant or shall we see retired bureaucrats, army workers, leaders? Or shall we see retired bureaucrats, army workers, leaders? Or shall we see retired bureaucrats, army workers, leaders? Or shall we see retired bureaucrats, army workers, leaders? Or shall we see retired bureaucrats, army workers, leaders? Or shall we see retired bureaucrats, army workers, leaders? Or shall we see retired bureaucrats, army workers, leaders?

Abu Naser
Editor

Want end to corruption in Police

On 4 April, a TIB Report was published stating that the most corrupt agency in the country was the Police. When we turn the pages of a newspaper, we find reports of murder, rape, looting, collection of dacoity, looting and hijacking of the Police. It is therefore a matter of urgency that corruption in the Police be checked. Otherwise, the law and order situation will become even worse. All parties have condemned it and furthermore, it will not be possible to maintain the neutrality and transparency of the judiciary.

Building a Corruption-Free Bangladesh in Asia

The Asia-Pacific Conference on curbing corruption was held last December in Seoul, South Korea. Vice President John and Paryushan Development Bank (ADB) said that the problem of corruption was very grave and therefore apprehended that it would have dangerous impact on the global economy. The ADB has identified corruption as the main problem for Bangladesh. In the context of globalisation, if poverty poses a serious challenge for ADB. However, in the context of globalisation, if poverty poses a serious challenge...
Bribery, corruption destroys nation'

Human rights are being violated because of corruption. Conscious citizens need to be brought together and, through them, people from all walks of life have to be united if corruption is to be weeded out from the society. Prof. Muzaffar Ahmad and Prof. Jateen Sarker from the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) organised the seminar on 26 May at the local District Council auditorium. Chairman of the TI Trustee Board and eminent educationist Professor Khan Sarwar Murshid was the Chief Guest at the seminar. It was chaired by the Convener of the CEC, Professor Islam and ran from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The former Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh Mr. M. Hafizuddin Khan was present as special guest. Prof. Muzaffar Ahmad and Prof. Jateen Sarker presented papers on ‘Corruption and Good Governance in Bangladesh’ and ‘Corruption and Cultural Movements: Society, State, and Cultural Movements’ respectively. In his paper, Prof. Muzaffar Ahmad mentioned that a lot of information is being brought out into the open about corruption owing to the freedom of the press. What is necessary, he said, is to create a firm resolve in the minds of the citizens to resist corruption. He also said that it is only the conscious and compromising people who can ensure our ascent from the vicious cycle of socio-economic decadence to morally sound human level of sustainable and self-prospering development.

Prof. Jateen Sarker in his paper said that it would be inappropriate to judge all who are corrupt in society with the same yardstick. He said that those who resort to malpractice owing to the scarcity cannot be hand ed out punishment by society unless effective measures are taken to resolve their scarcity. He stressed the need for seeking those blackguards whose nature it is to cause scarcity and want in society. The primary responsibility of civil society is to ensure social punishment for those who are ruthless by nature so that no one is pushed by scarcity into corruption.

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**Bribery, corruption destroys nation**

**First Coordination meeting of South Asian TIs held in Dhaka**

Representatives of Transparency International (TI) from five South Asian Countries (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives) meeting in Dhaka during 3-8 April 2001 for a regional coordination meeting. The meeting had threadbare discussion on the results of the survey conduct by TIB in 1997 on countrywide corruption. The meeting identified 7 (seven) sectors as corrupt sectors in the five countries and drew up a comprehensive questionnaire. The meeting decided to undertake a coordinated survey under the South Asian TI Chapters in line with the survey conducted by TIB.

Those present at the Regional coordination meeting included the Chairman of the TI Advisory Committee, Dr. Kanal Hossain, Member of the TI Trustee Board Prof. Muzaffar Ahmad, Executive Director Manzoor Hasan, C. M. Ramakrishnan of TI India, Nooruddin Ahmed and Manzoor Shami of TI Pakistan, Tarek Ahmed, Pro-Professor and Jamilun Thapa of TI Nepal. The Chairman of the coordination meeting, which was held in a local hotel, was Dr. Jamal Munshi, Professor, California State University and TIB senior Research Fellow.

**The Database Report on corruption related news was published on 13 April. The Report has been prepared on the basis of news items appearing in 21 national dailies. TIB’s Corruption Database Report for the period July - December 2000 was launched at a press conference at the National Press Club. The event received extensive coverage in the print media as well as in Ekhon Television. Editorialists and Post-editorials were written on this in most of the national dailies.**

According to the Report, a total of one thousand nine hundred and forty eight reports on corruption were published in the media during the six months (July - December 2000). This means that on average 325 reports were published every month. The Report identified the following as the most corruption the law enforcement - the police. The highest number of reported incidence of corruption is in Dhaka. And in Dhaka, the top-notched is Ramma Police Station. Corruption is usually prevalent among Class I Government servants. The loss incurred by the Government during the survey period on account of corruption is TK. 5656.76 crore, which is nearly 2.6% of the GDP. Financially the most affected sector is health. Some action was taken in the case of only 31.4% of incidence corruption practiced and the Anti-Corruption Bureau has no role to play in the case of 13.7% such incidents. The Report indicates that in the reported cases of corruption, there is extensive evidence of absolute power, whimsical power and lack of accountability among the employees concerned.

**Chairman of the TI Trustee Board, Prof. Khan Sarwar Murshid, Members Prof. Muzaffar Ahmad and Samson H. Chowdhury, Executive Director Manzoor Hasan and other officials were present at the coordination meeting. Prof. Muzaffar Ahmad and TIB Research Assistant Abdul Alim responded to questions from the journalists. Previously, TIB had published the second Corruption Database Report for the period January - June 2000 on 25 September 2000.**

**The TIB Chairman said that the nature of corruption, its root causes etc. need to be taught in schools and colleges. Students must be told how corruption enters the administration and stashes away people’s rights. Prof. Murshid referred to the Constitution and said that the state has clearly defined obligations to the society under several provisions of the Constitution. He said that the Constitution is our treasure and that it is possible to create a welfare state on the inculcating an anti-corruption culture in the Constitution. The Government isviolated the Constitution. He said that for the society to survive we need to abandon corruption. And for this, the need political change. In this, the responsibility of the people is to elect honest men in the national elections so that they do not have to bribe people for a job.**

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From the pages of Newspapers

Police pillars bullets

A constable of the Rajshahi Metropolitan Police stole seven rounds of bullets and3bushed them away in his trunk. The bullets were discovered after a search was conducted in the police station. The constable has been arrested and is in custody.

From the pages of Newspapers

O.C. in Jail

A former O.C. of Kishoregonj, Fazlur Karim, has been sent to jail on corruption charges. In 1994, he was accused of embezzling funds while working for the Bangladesh National Bank. A court has now sentenced him to six years in prison

Formation of Committees of Concerned Citizens in
Nalitabari, Madhupur and Kishoregonj

The formation of Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCC) in Nalitabari, Madhupur, and Kishoregonj has been announced. The committees are to be formed in order to monitor the activities of government officials and ensure good governance.

V.I.P Corruption

There are 150 corruption cases pending against nearly 50 V.I.Ps. The Corruption Bureau has filed 151 cases at different locations after a rigorous investigation. The bureau is seeking the co-operation of the police to investigate these cases.

Secretary fakes age

A Secretary to the Government has faked his age. The Secretary lied about his age in his personal data sheet (PDS) and has been arrested for fraud.

Corruption in DESA

There have been reports of corruption in the DESA (Department of Economic Affairs). A review of the Anti-Corruption Bureau shows that these cases are not being disposed of primarily because of a lack of necessary initiative. During the last five years, the Anti-Corruption Bureau has filed 151 cases at different locations after a rigorous investigation. The bureau is seeking the co-operation of the police to investigate these cases.

Every year, about 2500 crore Taka is being siphoned off through forgeries. The misappropriation has been done through forged securities, false paper clippings, etc. A chain of employees from the clerks to the top executive are reportedly involved in this forgery.

The formation of Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCC) in Nalitabari of Sherpur, Madhupur of Tangail and in Kishoregonj Sadar, by TIB has raised a number of concerns greater than those of the Anti-Corruption Bureau.

Farouque, businessman Kiron Dutta and students Helena Akhtiar and Kahanur Ruma.

Madhupur

The TIB Committees of Concerned Citizens in Madhupur Thana of Tangail District was formed on 19 May. The committee is composed of 12 members and is chaired by O.C. Fazlul Karim. The committee is expected to ensure good governance and to monitor the activities of government officials.

Kishoregonj

A meeting of leading conscious citizens of different professions in Kishoregonj Sadar was held on 9 June. A 15-member Committees of Concerned Citizens Kishoregonj Sadar present was formed at the meeting. The respected Prof. Rafiur Rahman Chowdhury was nominated as the Convener of the Committee. The other members of the CCC include social worker, journalist, social worker, and students.

From the pages of Newspapers

O.C. however, released the accused. Subsequently, the District Anti-Corruption Bureau filed a case against O.C. Fazlur Karim and UP member Akbar Hossain. On 17 April, Special Judge, Kishoregonj cancelled the O.C’s bail order and sent him to prison.

Misappropriation of Tk. 1 crore in electricity bill

Nearly one crore taka paid as electricity bills by consumers at the Satkhira Pubali Bank have not been deposited. A certain section of the bank’s employees have collided with the misappropriation of the money over a period of ten years from 1990 to 2000. Although the bill paying consumers have necessary receipts with bank seal, signature and revenue stamps, there is no reflection of these payments in the bank statements sent by the bank to the Electricity office. Meanwhile, as a result of “unpaid” dues, power lines of many of the consumers have been disconnected which has brought on a serious reaction by the customers.


Crime in Tangail

The Thana of Tangail District was formed on 25 April. The committee is composed of 12 members and is chaired by O.C. Fazlul Karim. The committee is expected to ensure good governance and to monitor the activities of government officials.

From the pages of Newspapers

From the pages of Newspapers
Executive Director meets ADB representative

Executive Director Manzoor Hasan paid a courtesy call on Mr. Thipt Supa Pipat, the Bangladesh Resident Representative of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on 10 May. The Executive Director was accompanied by the ADB Resident Representative about the various programmes of TIB. He also handed over to the ADB Resident Representative copies of the two recently published research papers (Corruption Data Bank and Survey on the meritocracy students and teachers of Secondary schools). Mr. Thipt Supa Pipat lauded the programmes of TIB.

TIB and UNDP Resident Representative visits TIB

On 3 May 2001, TIB delegations separately met with World Bank Country Director Frederick D. Tempel, IMF Resident Representative Ronald P. Hicks and Chairman of the Public Administration Reform Commission A. T. M. Shamsul Haq. During the meetings, the TIB delegations outlined the various programmes under taken by TIB and presented copies of some of the reports.

Executive Director as instructor at BPATC

The Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) provides training for officials belonging to the various cadres of the Bangladesh Civil Service. Executive Director Manzoor Hasan participated in the 35th Senior Staff Course as an instructor. The Senior Staff Course is designed for Joint Secretaries to the Government and equivalent ranking public servants. He delivered a lecture on Transparency in Administration on 11 May. It may be mentioned that Manzoor Hasan has previously delivered lectures at the 33rd and 34th Senior Staff Courses at the BPATC.

Focus Group discussion

A focus group discussion was held on 12 April on the “Parliamentary Scene” and the “Standing Committee Scene”. The focus group discussion was held at the UNDP Bangladesh Office and was attended by TIB representatives and MPs. The MPs pointed out that the TIB publication and said that the booklet was a concise and readable within a short period of time. They spoke of greater transparency and accountability in Parliamentary proceedings for making the Parliament effective. Referring to the Standing Committees as mini-Parliaments, they said that the Standing Committees authority should not be limited to only recommendations; they should also have the authority to take binding decisions. This way, action can be taken promptly and efficiently.

TIB has formed a mobile theatre unit so as to be able to convey the all-pervasive nature of corruption to the general public. The theatre, that has been adopted by TIB to generate awareness about corruption among those who are victims at the grassroots level, but who constitute the silent segment of society that are deprived of their rights. Democracy Watch, which is a component member of the Governance Coalition, has joined hands with TIB in this venture.

This People’s Theatre troupe has been formed by a group of energetic, hard-working and promising young theatre activists from Democracy Watch Mymensingh. Funding for the programme is provided by TIB. The troupe has so far staged 12 shows in various locations in greater Mymensingh. The first show was staged on 8 June in Baranaila (The alphabets), staged in the open-air stage of the Mymensingh Seab Quarup Park, highlighted the system of corruption in primary education. This trend has adversely affected the clientele of educational institutions, apathy of teachers towards the students, cruelty and lack of sincerity etc.

The manuscript was prepared by Jewel Kabir Akash, a brilliant student of M. A. final year at Jahangirnagar University. Graphic design, layout and CD design were undertaken by Mr. Karol Hossain Mintu was the research and production advisor, while Ribbon Khalid, recent graduate from the same university, directed the production.
Jasim Chowdhury Shabuj, Bureau Chief, Daily Jugantar, Chattogram. He said, corruption is rampant every-where. The newspapers do not ade-quately cover the corruption-taking place around us. Many journalists feel insecure after publishing corruption related news. Government does not provide security if someone writes about deliberate malpractices as such as corrup-tion. Therefore, as a result there is no enthusiasm on the part of journalists to focus on corruption.

Manik Shaha is a journalist from Khulna. Staff reporter of the Daily Sangbad and BBC reporter. According to him, corruption is one of the impediments to national development and progress. Staring from the individual to the highest institutional levels, corrup-tion is everywhere. Social move-ment against corruption is the need of the hour. Every day there has been an increase in the number of demonstrations. A clear indication of the corrup-tion is everywhere. A social move-ment against corruption is the need of the hour. Every day there has been an increase in the number of demonstrations.

Debabrata Chakraborty Bishnu is the Assistant Editor of the Daily Bangladesh Patrika. He said that there was bribery everywhere and unfortu-nate as it is, it is a fact of life that our en-try into the 21st century was charac-terized by a crisis of values. There is no cover, everybody is in an un treacherous situation. There is no set of rules and regulations in the administra-tion. As a result, corruption has reached dangerous levels.

Journalist Ranjan Sen says, corrup-tion is everywhere this is the reality. Politicians are held to be responsible for this. But he does not hold this view. This is because politicians have run the country for only 13 years since inde-pendence. For the rest of the 30 years, the military and bureaucratic elements have ruled our country. There is a clear indication of the corrup-tion cannot receive social approval in a democratic society.

Staff Reporter of the Daily Bftyqir Anwar Akhil says, corruption is deep-rooted in all levels of the administra-tion. If we need to check this, we have to change every-thing. According to him, those who are involved in investigative journalism find obstacles at every step of their pro-fessional work. Their lives are threat-ened. Despite all this, when a report on corruption is prepared, its fate remains uncertain because the newspaper’s “policy” determines whether such a story could be published or not. Then there is of course the owner’s perspec-tive. It is also not possible to show the complete picture of corruption because we see only a part of the whole. The corruption that is happening may not be what is happening in the official data. It is also not possible to obtain evidence of corruption.
Transparency in election

Not much time is left for the national elections. Who shall we see in the next Parliament? Honest politicians, social workers, leaders? Or shall we see retired bureaucrats, army men, smugglers, gunrunners, drug dealers, women trafficking, and gold smugglers? People with vested interest will donate funds to the political parties for their nomination, clearly not for social service. They will undoubtedly take back, by any means, twicethrice of what they spend. The elections must be fair, free and neutral in the interest of democracy. Thanks to TIB Newsletter Year 5 March 2001 issue for publishing an editorial on this subject.

M. A. Karim
Hathazari, Chittagong

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The politicians are there, for a reason. They are unable to nab them even by enacting the Public Security Act. This is because, as the saying goes, ‘you pull the ear and the whole head comes’—in this case it is not only the head of the body that is bound to come. And therefore, corruption by VIPs remains unobserved by the public.

One should carefully establish a law and order situation will be checked. Otherwise, the law and order situation will deteriorate, which would induce lawlessness and social instability. Furthermore, it would be impossible to maintain the neutrality and transparency of the judiciary.

Bijanuddin (Ratan), LLB (Final)
Chittagong Law College

Corruption in Asia

The Asia-Pacific Conference on curbing corruption was held last December in Seoul, South Korea. Vice President John L. Rettig of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said that the extent of corruption was very grave and apprehended that it would have dangerous impact on the global economy. He said that the extent of corruption was very grave and apprehended that it would have dangerous impact on the global economy. He said that the extent of corruption was very grave and apprehended that it would have dangerous impact on the global economy. It can be seen from TIB’s listing of corrupt practices for the period July - December 2000 that corruption in the Police, health sector and by class I government servants has cost the Government 5500 core taka. If that be the figure for 6 months, then the total for the full term period of this Government is a matter of great concern. Corruption at this rate casts a negation on the global economy. The Government should institute proper inquiry and punish all individuals and organisations linked to corruption.

Ranjit Satellite Town, Rupali

Accountability of the Government

Recently, the World Bank and other donor agencies have identified corruption as the main problem for Bangladesh. In some reports, it has even been said that if corruption is checked, the growth rate can be effectively doubled. There has however been no forward movement in checking corruption. TIB is working towards curbing corruption, which is undoubtedly in the greater national interest. The real issue however is not just the extent of the problem but the Government must be answerable to the people. Only accountability can force a Govt. to adopt effective measures to curb corruption.

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