

# Giving up the culture of using pirated books

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**B**OOKS are still a cornucopia of information resource in Bangladesh. Very few users use online resources due to their inaccessibility to Internet and other sources of knowledge on English, technical skill, etc. Sometimes many students become dependent on printed resources. Some get help from online journals and others from search engines to get the desired information. But they cannot get authentic information due to mega data collection. As a hard copy, books are still playing a significant role throughout the world. Books are regarded as prime and main resource as a study tool in our country.

Both Bangladeshi writers and foreign writers are deprived of getting financial benefits from books in Bangladesh. Publishers are also not getting financial benefit.

Nilkhet is the main hub of books where original books are reproduced without getting the permission of original authors and publishers. For that reason, quality of books is very low and publication industry is under threat.

If we look at the scenario of India, none sells photocopied or pirated books, their law is very hard. That is why they are getting permission from original publishers like McGraw-Hill, Irwin, Penguin and MECADOM to publish in India for economic edition for SAARC region.

Text books and reference books are creating demands of many public and private higher educational institutions for fields such as business, law, science, engineering and language and literature both at graduate and post-graduate levels.

Many private educational institutions purchase pirated

books and thus deprive publishers and authors financially. Not only that nowadays some institutions offer course on business ethics where students learn ethics but that those ethics book are also pirated books. So, what is the real value of learning business ethics? Is study confined to theory only? It should have real application throughout our life.

Government should take initiative to solve this social problem. Every book has a research value. Dhaka University central library has a big research value since it collects original printed books.

Pirated books have no research value. After a few months they are damaged due to poor quality of page, ink, printing, binding, etc. reasons. If we do not become aware now, after a long period there could be rare

University and Independent University of Bangladesh are very much committed to procure original printed books whatever their prices are. So, in the long run these three libraries could be a model ones of Bangladesh in the field of higher studies, especially for research and real education purposes. Besides, few newly-established private universities are also in progress.

Physician and medical level studies need original printed books which are multi-colour in nature— photocopied books will not meet the desired purpose. Same thing is applicable for students of architecture and fine arts.

In the age of information technology, many vital resources are being pirated frequently all over the world, especially in third world coun-

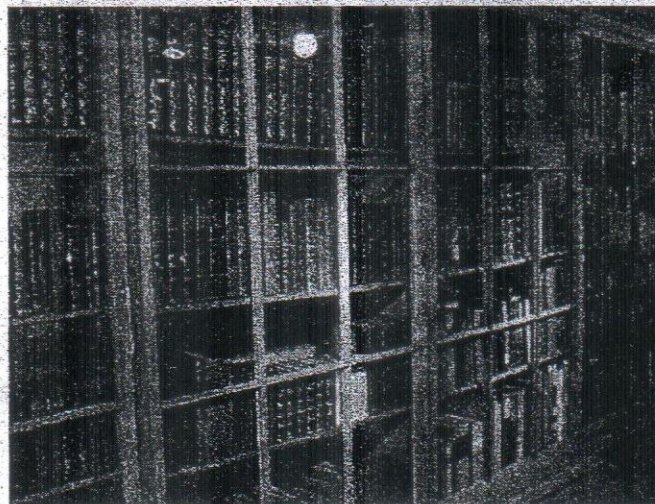
As a third-world country, poor students, teachers and common people want books at a cheaper price. It would be convenient and helpful for our economy. The problem can be solved by taking a massive 10-year plan.

In the 1st two years, no educational institution can purchase pirated books. The observance of this rule will be ensured by monitoring organisations such as the University Grants Commission (UGC), Education Ministry, Education Board, state medical faculties, etc.

In the next three years, the government can aim to give subsidy to publish foreign books with the approval of original publishers. Printing materials will be tax-free to reduce the production cost of books and journals. Within next two years government can force sellers and distributors to sell original books. For availability of every book to all people government should motivate multinational companies to establish community library so that anyone can get his or her desired book. To do the noble job, a company will get reduced tax liability. Similarly, every public library throughout the country will be well-equipped to meet academic purposes as well as common public's interest. Library hours will be from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm with two shifts providing all modern facilities. The government should also form a steering committee for the help of top publishers, library professionals and some government high officials.

Finally, criticism and discussion will be expected from different levels to take the final decision.

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Original books should be preserved in all libraries.

research opportunities just for lack of original books and journals. Government book suppliers, vendors and mass people can cumulatively solve this social problem for a good nation in the near future.

Private universities like East West University, North South

tries. There is a loophole in the prevailing law and not much strictness in some cases. CD and audio cassettes are a multimedia part of education resources. But these are also pirated and users and researchers are also suffering for that reason.