

Two prominent Sivasagar schools hit by space crunch

CORRESPONDENT

SIVASAGAR, March 27: At a time when guardians all over the state prefer to admit their wards in private schools, there are some schools that have been showing remarkable consistency in achieving good results as well as creating brilliant academic, statesmen, businessmen and literary luminaries, thus reviving people's faith in government-run primary educational institutions.

Two sterling examples of such schools are the Lakshminath Bezbaruah Sishu Bhawan and the No. 1 Town Primary School located barely 100 metres away from

one another along Boarding Road here.

There is an unbelievable rush for admission in both the schools every year and the guardians wait for over three days in the queue to collect the admission forms. It is a heartening sight to see the guardians waiting in line in front of the gates even during the night.

Lakshminath Bezbaruah School, established in 1955, has become a model among the state-run schools with a continued good run over the years because of good coordination between the school teachers and the management committee. The school has been conferred a number

of awards by the state government for its achievements of 100 percent pass over the years. The pressure for admission to the school is tremendous.

The school with its present infrastructure and size of classrooms can admit only 50 students in KG, said headmaster Ranjit Chutia. As there is no space for enlargement of school rooms, the present infrastructure shall have to be dismantled for making way for double-storey provision. Chutia said that a master plan with estimates has been submitted to the minister of Education Dr Ranuj Pegu during his visit to the school.

Dr Pegu in keeping with the reputation of the school assured the school management team of a Rs 50 lakh grant for the project. But what will the school management do to accommodate the increasing number of students till such a big project gets implemented? Where will the students go for their regular classes right when the New Education Policy begins? These questions have baffled the teaching staff. At present, there are 487 students in the school, but no open space for them to play. The school management plans to do away with the original building to make way for the open yard with two

new buildings on either side.

On the other hand, the No. 1 Town Primary School was established in 1882 and has over the century produced a number of presidents of Asam Sahitya Sabha, including Dimbeswar Neog, Maheswar Neog, Dr Moidul Islam Bora, Padmadhar Chaliha, and many other important personalities of the state. It has been in the contest for reputation since the Lakshminath Bezbaruah Sishu Bhawan appeared on the scene of primary education in the town.

According to headmaster Gautam Bora of No. 1 Town Primary School, the problem is similar with only 70 seats for the newcomers along with

the existing infrastructure. Most rooms are small and were constructed long before there was any rush for seats. The school has over 464 students on the small school campus, thus leaving no scope for the students to play.

As it is located in a busy commercial hub of the town, the students need to be constantly guarded as numerous vehicles are parked in front of the school gate all the time. The school has been given a grant of Rs 40 lakh by the Education department this year and if the new construction is done with optimum use of land, there may be space for the students to attend the prayer assembly in the morning.