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Primary Education: The Primary Need For Socio-economic Development-II

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The TFYP (1985-90) had a development outlay of Taka 989.21 crore for the entire education and religious sector. Of the total outlay the primary education had the largest chunk of allocation of Tk 528.06 crore which is 53.38 per cent. The FFYP (1990-95) made an allocation of 2401 crore for education and religious sector. Of this allocation, Taka 1162.27 crore, 73.25 crore for spill-over and 1089.27 crore for new projects have been allocated for primary education alone which is 48.41 per cent of the total allocation.

The Three Year Rolling Investment Programme (FY 1993-95) took up 17 projects under the Directorate of Primary Education Projecting a total outlay of Taka 1827.12 crore. The Annual Development Programme (1992-93) kept allocation 796.55 crore but in the Revised ADP ((1992-93) the allocation has been

sized to Taka 664.0 crore and the projected allocation for 1993-94 is estimated at Taka 879.0 crore which will be 8.34 per cent of the total allocation against 8.18 per cent of the ADP 1992-93. In the current ADP 16 development projects involving a projected outlay of Taka 2559 crore comprising of 11 spill-over and 5 new projects have been taken up for implementation. The total outlay includes Taka 1695.69 crore foreign exchange in the primary education sector alone. The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) very recently okayed a 300 crore projects for uplift of 9000 private primary schools in the country.

Plans and Programmes are there to achieve a basic literacy rate of around 60 per cent by 2000 A.D. The New Development Perspective (NDP) of the present government

gives top priority to accelerated and sustainable economic development of the country with focus on human resource development, participatory planning, women's participation and poverty alleviation. Without freeing the society from the scourge of illiteracy through concerted efforts of policy makers, policy executors, social leaders and above all the clientele, fulfilment of the objectives will remain a far cry.

Under the prevailing circumstances and for the future benefit of the posterity aggressive motivational works have to be taken up for creating awareness among the people about the imperativity of the primary education with appropriate communication plan and strategy. Adequate steps is needed to ensure enrolment of age cohort children in the primary school and arrest drop outs. To attract the distressed chil-

dren to school, programme for providing nutritious food and dress could be adopted. Such type of programme in Tamil Nadu, India yielded substantially good result and gave political dividend ruling party. Besides, there has to be well thought sustainable syllabus for primary education, effective inspection and monitoring system, system of involving local formal and informal leaders in the process which might help ensure greater accountability. The primary teachers will have to be adequately trained and frequent orientation training courses will help equip them with latest socio-cultural, environmental, and nutritional programmes and information. Teachers should be attractive to pupil in their manners and teaching style so that pupil will feel urge to come to schools.

—PID Feature