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## College Teachers For Mass Education

According to a report published yesterday Bangladesh college teachers have decided to participate actively in mass education programmes of the government. We commend the move and look forward to seeing results that are bound to flow from bands of teachers engaging themselves in a function for which none could be more suitable—and, of course, more effective.

In the sequel to such a decision the Executive Committee of the Association has reportedly drawn up a broad-based programme including a seminar on mass education.

In a country where the literacy rate is one of the lowest in the world literacy on the mass level can be made possible only through the voluntary participation of the people in imparting and spreading it. By that we mean that the comparatively literate and educated section of the people will have to assume the task of educating their fellow illiterate citizens. This is both a moral and national responsibility. And this is what should be the order in an independent country with limited resources, like Bang-

ladesh.

One of the negative traditions (handed down from colonial days) is that national reconstruction in economic, educational or industrial sectors is more a job of the government. The people as such have little or nothing to do with it. Unfortunately even after the achievement of independence the same mentality on the part of the general mass has persisted. All well entrenched traditions and outlooks do so. That political liberation should make a difference to the situation took long to be properly perceived.

Since Bangladesh has adopted self-reliance and self-help as one of her leading reconstruction ideals she should address herself first to her grass-root problems and seek their solution on self-help basis. Education is one of them and mass education is the most basic of them.

While welcoming the noble move made by the college teachers in the cause of education we emphasise the fact that their counterparts in schools and universities owe as great a duty to the people in this regard.