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Female Teachers

The percentage of female school teachers working in government primary schools has almost by tradition been kept at a minimum and is still today not more than 19%. Yet, in contrast, the private kindergartens show a remarkable preference for women. It is well known that small children respond better to women and this is particularly true where girls are involved and for this reason alone the government should try to increase the ratio of lady teachers to males if their plans for increased participation of females at the primary level is to be successful.

In preparation for the Fourth Five-Year Plan, which is now just around the corner, the Ministry of Education has produced a draft policy paper on education which is believed to have been favourably received both inside and outside this sensitive sector. The Ministry hopes to increase the number of female teachers in the primary sector to reach the figure of 50% by the year 2000. To do this, they plan to recruit new teachers at the ratio of 60:40 in favour of women until the ratio is reached.

With the world emphasis on greater involvement and enrolment of women to eradicate existing disparities, the employment of female teachers has taken on an added priority. Their role will be of utmost importance in encouraging the enrolment of new female students and, most important, to persuade them to remain in schools throughout the primary and secondary system. Most of the burden of achieving this will fall on the women teachers who can effectively present the case for female education.