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# Teacher shortage hampers education in Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Feb. 22.—A total of 154 recognised non-government secondary schools in the city and nine thanas of the district are beset with manifold problems hampering education of about 90,000 students.

The deplorable condition of school buildings, shortage of furniture, accommodation, science building, playgrounds, library facilities, common rooms and fund are hindering smooth education in these schools.

Many of the schools are holding classes in decaying buildings which may collapse at any moment.

During the rainy season water leaks through the roofs of these buildings. Only 10 per cent schools have only one or two storied buildings while others are housed in tinsheds.

These schools are facing difficulties to accommodate the increasing number of students. About 70 per cent of these schools have neither science building nor necessary science equipment.

In the absence of playgrounds in 25 per cent of these schools, students

are deprived of recreational facilities. The sports facilities are meagre in almost all the educational institutions.

In most of the schools scarcity of pure drinking water persists in the absence of requisite number of tubewells.

Only 10 per cent schools have libraries which lacks requisite number of text-books and reference books.

There are no separate common rooms for girl students in the co-education schools in the rural areas. The girl students are compelled to stay in classrooms during leisure time.

All the high schools excepting a few are facing acute fund crisis and as a result the teachers do not get their salary regularly.

Besides, the schools which were damaged in the floods, storms and cyclones during the last few years have not been repaired.

Teachers, students and guardians have urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps to mitigate

the sufferings of the students.

## Chuadanga

Our Chuadanga correspondent reports : There are 259 Govt. and 88 registered primary schools to teach about 1.50 lakh students while about one lakh children are denied primary education due to the poor condition of their parents. The boys go to fields, factories, shops and restaurants in search of food and to supplement the income of their parents who have many children.

The district Primary Education office could not furnish the actual number of students enrolled and the drop-outs who left the schools at a stage of their study.

The education of students of Gardoove High School of Meherpur district is being hampered badly for want of required number of teachers.

A teacher who passed the SSC Examinations has been teaching Mathematics during the last three years in the school. There is no graduate teacher to teach English and Mathematics in the school.

The school needs adequate number of qualified teachers to improve standard of education.

## Kushtia

A report from Kushtia adds : A total of 120 high schools in six thanas of the district are facing manifold problems.

According to sources, inadequate funds, lack of educational appliances, shortage of furniture and accommodation are the main problems.

Most of the schools established at the local initiative did not get government recognition. The schools have been running without government financial help.

Due to accommodation problem many students have to remain standing in the class rooms. Moreover, many school buildings damaged earlier in the natural calamities remain unrepairs.

Scarcity of pure drinking water is acute in the absence of tubewells in these institutions.

## Maulvibazar

UNB reports from Maulvibazar: Primary education is being hampered in the district as there are no primary schools in one-third villages of all the six thanas.

According to District Primary Education Office, there are only 693 government primary schools in the district but the number of villages in the district is 2046.

In Sadar thana there are 167 government primary schools against 465 villages, 163 schools against 528 villages in Kulaura thana, 108 schools against 313 villages in Baralekha thana, 102 schools against 265 villages in Rajnagar thana, 87 schools against 261 villages in Kamalganj and 66 schools in 214 villages in Srimongal thana. As a result a large number of children are being deprived of primary education.

Local leaders and guardians demanded setting up of more schools for eradicating illiteracy from the district.

## Naogaon

The Primary Education Department has distributed 2,78,300 sets of book free of cost among the students of Class-I to Class-V throughout the district this year to ensure primary education for all.

Of the books, 74,000 sets have been distributed among the students of Class-I, while 63,700 sets among the students of Class-II, 55,800 sets among the students of Class-III, 46,900 sets among the students of Class-IV and 37,900 sets of book among the students of Class-V.

Meanwhile, a total of 9,105 poor children studying in 105 government and non-government primary schools of the district have been brought under Food for Education Programme in the current fiscal year.