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Focus on four years

Greater attention on tech education

Times Special

The Government gave greater attention to technical education during the past four years. In the Second Five-Year Plan (SFYP) period this sector got the third highest budgetary allocation after primary and secondary education. The SFYP earmarked 88.2 crore taka for the development of technical education in the country. Because of resource shortfall it received Tk. 49.1 crore which accounted for 55 per cent of the total allocation for education.

In its present stage technical education in Bangladesh is in three tiers — degree, diploma

and trade training programme. The objective of this education is to produce required technical manpower at these levels to meet the need of the country's industrial establishments and various service organisations. As of 1983, four engineering colleges, four monotechnics, 17 polytechnics and 54 vocational training institutes were operating. The number of teachers and students and teachers were 1,818 and 18,843 respectively.

A comprehensive project for the development of technical education involving a total estimated cost of 135.38 crore taka

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was launched during the 1984-85 period. Over the past four years consolidation of facilities of the engineering colleges and development of the Technical Education Staff College into an engineering college were undertaken. The country's first polytechnic institute for women students was set up during this time. During the SFYP period, 35 schemes were under implementation. Of them, 20 were completed up to June 1985, nine schemes spilled over to the Third Five-Year Plan, two were dropped and four schemes were transferred to the Manpower Sector in course of implementation.

Over the past four years four engineering colleges, 12 polytechnics, a finishing facilities centre for leather industry, 16 commercial institutes, a ceramic institute, 54 vocational training institutes, a college of leather technology, and an Educational Equipment Board were developed. A vocational Teachers' Training Institute, the first of its kind in the country, was set up during this time. The major components of development were civil works, acquisition of equipment and fixtures, foreign advisory services and fellowships.

The enrolment capacity of four engineering colleges increased from 2,080 in 1980 to 3,120 in 1985. In the polytechnic institutes, capacity increased from 11,835 in 1980 to 12,749 in 1985.

The Directorate of Technical Education organises, develops and controls the different tiers of technical education facilities that needs to be developed to help the country's total development activities. Headed by a Director-General, the directorate has five different wings for administration, planning, training, project implementation and programme inspection.