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Primary education to get top priority

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The Ministry of Education has formulated a package of policy options towards overhauling the existing system of education in Bangladesh.

The draft policy paper on education prepared by the Ministry calls for highest priority to educational development with largest allocation of resources to education.

It also calls for a permanent National Education Council to formulate and review educational policies and plans and adopt measures for improvement on a continuous basis.

According to the policy, pre-primary education would receive high priority to achieve target in universal primary education. Compulsory primary education would be introduced gradually in phases beginning from metropolitan and other large urban areas.

The policy favours introduction of a minimum learning package in primary school curriculum so that at the end of Grade-V every child is equipped with a set of cognitive and effective skills.

According to Education Ministry sources, community supported pre-primary education efforts, maktabs, kindergarten and NGO-operated non-formal programmes would be encouraged through appropriate policy guidelines to be developed by the Government.

The sources emphasised that all-out efforts should be made to achieve universal primary education by the year 2,000.

GIRLS ENROLMENT

To encourage enrolment of girls more women teachers. The Ministry plans to review the present system of produc-

Contd. on page 5

Primary education

Contd. from page 1

would be recruited so that the ratio of male and female teachers become at least 50:50 by the year 2000, they said.

Meanwhile, the Ministry has introduced a system to recruit Primary teachers through written tests at district level with a view to ensuring efficiency and quality in teaching.

tion and distribution of primary Textbooks through the Textbook Board for possible privatisa- tion of the process after 1990 to achieve greater efficiency and cost effectiveness.

In case of non-formal education, the Ministry plans to strengthen the current mass education programme of the Government providing adult literacy and non-formal education by involving all nation-building agencies and mobilising community resources.

The involvement and efforts of NGOs in non-formal education to supplement or complement the formal system of education would also be encouraged.

The Ministry of Education will further formulate guidelines for setting up, operation and management of private schools including English medium kindergartens and other schools offering 'O' and 'A' level courses.

Community and private efforts in education would be encouraged at all levels including tertiary level, according to the policy suggestion.

The Ministry of Education has already started implementing different policy measures.