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The NEC of Japan is manufacturing PC-8200 Diminutive computers, each of which will cost only 550 dollars. Fujitsu America Inc. is manufacturing a dozen products of Home Computers each in 100 dollar range for introduction into the markets of the United States.

With the advent of microprocessor, the heart of a computer in one integrated circuit chip, which is worth few hundred taka only, a marvelous technology has emerged, that is bound to have a major impact on our education system, as country's all-round development totally relies on well-educated citizens. The Western World has become a computerized society and is preparing to hope for another step to robot age. But we, the inhabitants of the 3rd World are far behind the computer most reluctantly in race we have started using the recent past, though it is an important rather most essential tool of modern civilization.

The computer is making the modern society robot ignoring vast human resources of the World. As a result, the poverty ridden hungry faces of the developing countries have been thrown into uncertain future. The capitalist money-makers of the developed world are capitalizing on the miseries and sufferings of the hungry-down-trodden people, who have been propelling their own crafts of profits and opportunities.

The modern developed world has advanced much with the help of Computer Automations. We need to respond to this development most rationally, neither ignoring it nor exaggerating its significance, in view of the tremendous unemployment problem inflation and population explosion, in the context of Bangladeshi Education systems.

Obviously many of our educational institutions need many other simpler things

Computer For Education In Bangladesh

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other than computers.

Selling at less than a 1000 taka in the World Market is a smaller and smarter computer the Sinclair 10000. Other low-cost computers have already been discussed earlier. We can connect it to our television set so that it can write out its responses on the screen. It has its own "Alphanumeric Key Board" letting us typed numbers and words into it. Between 1000 and 10000 taka are several popular models, some with the TV like display screen, are available. Others tie up our TV when in use.

Some computers require TV sets which can accept video signals (the way a radio takes in a "phono" input) but some will work with any TV set.

The Sinclair Models are being turned out at the rate of 100000 a month, and there are plans to extend the production four-fold (derived from the talk delivered by Mr. Kenneth Baker Minister for Information Technology, UK in September 1982). Last year the British Govt. set a target that every Secondary School in the country should have at least one microcomputer. They launched a scheme to train teachers in this area and to pay each interested secondary school half the cost of purchasing a microcomputer. It appears that the target has already been met. In June, 1983 Mrs. Thatcher, the Prime Minister announced that the scheme was being extended to all the Britain's 7,000 Primary Schools.

Do we like to use computers in Bangladeshi Schools, Colleges and Universities? Are they relevant to our education systems? After all what was good for Britain might not be good for Bangladesh.

Those who do not understand these issues cannot however avoid facing a World in which handling information is the major economic activity, and the rapid growing one. Over 40% of the work-force in any industrially advanced society is involved in information-related activities. Since the computer is in reality an information-processing machine (for example a computer can store retrieve reorder reformat and print text) every one from a typist to doctor would be using a computer regularly in a couple of decades.

The computer education to children are very interesting to them as a result they get to be better programmers quickly well before the course in computer handling that they will never hesitate to study mathe-

matics for becoming better programmers and system analysts.

Another factor that makes computer education relevant to schools is the utility of the skills it imparts all over the World, it is the case that those who pick up computer know how and expertise are easily employed. One does not need a master's degree to work with computers. There are some computer-related jobs which do not even call for a bachelor's degree.

For multidimensional developments the worlds of eighties are observing millions of microprocessor-based machines in different business, office and industrial installations. Even typing in a office would involve a word-processing computer. Business data processing, Photo-type setting and process control are some important applications which will be in wide use. There would be wide spectrum of jobs in the applications ranging from those who are school-leavers and to those who are post-graduates.

First we should introduce computer education at 6 Universities and all the colleges, then at the secondary schools and madrasahs and lastly at the primary schools of Bangladesh.

First we are to sort out some technical problems. Besides, portable and battery operated computer, all other computers previously required safe-guards or safety measures against electrical voltage troubles, such as spikes glitches electrical noises etc. which seriously told upon the electronics magnetic cores cables, programming data above all the efficiency of the machines. Present-day school model computers will not require special laboratories and air-conditioners. The class of computers visualised here will have many uses besides school level instructions. To consider all these and to coordinate activities major initiatives from the Government, teachers, students and the patriotic people of the country are ensured.

The computer education will definitely tackle the peculiar combination of a gulf distant shortage of trained manpower tremendous unemployment problems stubborn inflation and

As a mighty and efficient machine computer is reshaping the modern world and Bangladesh has recognized it as an effective tool in different development sectors. The Government have taken decision to computerize as far as possible the works of the different Govt. Departments to form a data

base and data management information system to enhance the decision-making process.

The Ministry of Education, it is reported to have taken steps to create data bank with informations from all schools madrasahs, colleges and universities. The Ministry of Finance and Planning have already used the computer of BUET for the Econometric Model Study of the 2nd Five Year Plan (1980-85). Besides, the Ministry of Agriculture and Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corp. have been using computers. Mr. Shafiq Azam Industry's Minister put greatest emphasis on the uses of computers and modern sophisticated instruments for boosting up productivity and developing management efficiency to have maximum outputs against minimum inputs in both public and private sectors.

The computer chief and the V.C. of BUET Mr. Patwari commented on the problem of computer installation in Bangladesh as it was underutilization in terms of both time and job.

To be concluded