

তারিখ ... 07 NOV 1994

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Tk 30cr disbursed in 6 months Free education for girls up to SSC from 1996

The government has distributed Taka 29 crore 70 lakh and 52 thousand under its free education programme among 6 lakh 67 thousand 290 girls at the secondary level from January to June this year, reports Media Syndicate.

According to Project Directors, about 90 per cent of the girls of schools and madrashas have been regularly attending the classes under this programme. The number of girls sought admission has considerably increased from two to three times. The first phase of project completed in June this year.

This programme has been introduced in 11 thousand 341 schools and madrashas in 460 thanas outside the municipal areas. The programme for imparting free education to girls, was taken up by Bangladesh government with the financial assistance of World Bank, Asian Development Bank and NORAD.

According to the programme, the girl students of Class VI and Class IX have been receiving this year an amount at the rate of Taka 25 and Taka 60 per head respectively as stipend. In the next stage the girl students of Class VII will be given Tkaka 60 per head.

All the girl students from Class VI to Class X will be brought under this programme from 1996. Besides, this year the girls of Class IX and Class X

are being given at the rate of Taka 250 each for purchase of books and payment has of examination fees.

The government has brought 460 thanas under four projects and has been implementing it. The Project Directors informed that earlier, a

guardian in a village used to arrange his daughter's marriage after continuing upto class IX. With the introduction of stipend under terms and conditions, the existing trend of giving early marriage to daughters could be reduced, they said.

The Project Directors further said that as the stipend money goes directly to the student's bank accounts, they do not withdraw all the amount at a time. This has developed their habit of saving.

They told Media Syndicate that for implementation of the programme in 460 thanas about two thousand people have been employed in the main offices of the projects. Besides, the vacant posts of teachers have been filled through fresh appointments. These appointments were needed due to more admissions of new girl students.