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39 pc enrolled in pri. schools in '78

Out of 1.5 crore primary school age population in 1978 only 39 per cent actually had been enrolled in primary schools against the official enrolment figure of 48 per cent says BSS.

This was revealed by a study of the National Foundation for Research on Human Resource Development on 23 villages located in 8 upazilas two from each division of the country. 12

Presenting this statement in a paper on "environment for primary education in rural areas of Bangladesh" at the concluding session of the third national geographical conference on Monday Prof. Kazi Saleh Ahmed said that the inflated enrolment figures were maintained officially to get sanctions of schools and posts of teachers and to get the salary bills of teachers cleared.

The paper also revealed that 80 per cent of the total enrolled children upto class v in 1978 were dropped out mainly due to socio economic condition of the guardians.

According to the study 44 per cent of the enrolled children were boys and 33 per cent girls against an officials figure of 53 per cent and 37 per cent respectively.