

Primary

Number of female teachers at primary level up by 3 times

Times Report

The number of female teachers at the primary level increased from 10,000 in 1980 to 33,000 in 1985, according to the Third Five-Year Plan (TFYP) document released by the government recently.

This spectacular rise in women employment in the educational arena was possible as necessary steps were taken during the Second Five-Year Plan (SFYP) to provide increased educational facilities and employment opportunities for women.

During SFYP against vacant posts at the primary level as many female teachers were appointed as were locally available. All the 500 posts of teachers' assistants were filled up with female teachers.

For increasing enrolment of girls at the polytechnic institutes and the technical training centres, female hostels were constructed and as an in-

centive measure, additional book allowances were given to the female trainees at the PTIs.

Almost all the secondary schools in rural areas offer co-education facilities for encouraging enrolment of girls in increased numbers, besides the provision of separate overnment girls' secondary schools upto new district headquarters. Out of the 700 non-government secondary schools developed with science teaching

facilities at Upazila headquarters, 350 are for girls.

The government nationalised and developed one girls' college at each district headquarters during SFYP. And in addition to 15 per cent places reserved for girls in all polytechnic institutes, a separate polytechnic institute for girls has been set up in Dhaka, and out of 10 cadet colleges in the country, one is exclusively meant for girls.

In order to provide incentive

to the girls for moving along the educational ladder, 40 per cent of the general scholarships (apart from talent pool scholarships) has been earmarked for girls.

Out of 400 community schools set up for unparting non-formal vocational skill training to rural populace and thereby providing opportunities for rural employment, 200 schools are meant for girls, the TFYP document added.