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## Free Books For Primary Students

Universal Primary Education accounting for 22,87,974 students throughout the country is reportedly receiving a boost under special measures aimed at it. According to an announcement by the Director of Public Instruction, text books and uniform will be distributed free of cost to fifty per cent of the students including the girls whose share of the uniform will be two sets of the same. For obvious reasons of more encouragement for the long-neglected female education in the country any preferential—seeming distribution of gifts should make no difference to the overall feeling of satisfaction among the recipients.

The announced benefits would involve students of more than thirty six thousand government primary schools. The distribution process has also been simplified by being based on the lists prepared locally by Headmasters and Headmistresses of the schools concerned with recommendations of the school management committees. Though made handy in this way, the distribution needs to be conducted with competence and adequate practical arrangements to avoid disaffection, should there be any and to ensure overall fairness.

It need hardly be said that universal primary education has been one of the focal points in our national reconstruction at the grass-roots. The major sector of beneficiaries of such extended educational facilities is the rural children of Bangladesh. Over the years, with the improvement in status and management of the primary schools, a new animation among the rural population has grown and the number of boys and girls going to school has perceptibly increased. As disclosed, universal primary education is included in the Second Five Year Plan and the budget allocation for the current financial year has been made. The reported cut-back on the same understandably, necessitated by reason of resource-limitation should not affect the targeted result to be achieved by the available funds. The same should also hold as far as the Second Five Year Plan Programme is concerned. The scope for economy exists, certainly, in most of the sectors of development. And the essentials of a programme like primary education on the proposed scale could be taken care of by filling the financial gaps with hard and intensive work at the vital levels.