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Compulsory Primary Education

Sir,

It is an appreciable step that the government is going to make the primary education compulsory from January 1991 and the Ministry of Education has drawn up a comprehensive programme for its implementation.

The Government in this regard had created a separate Directorate under the name of Primary Education Directorate and which has been functioning since 1981, but the Directorate has been running with the officials having least experience about the primary education, these officials have been brought to Directorate on deputation from other departments, as a result of which the earlier programme of expediting the primary education, aiming at increasing the percentage of literacy did not get due support.

At least 24 posts of District Primary Education Officers, out of 65 sanctioned posts and 30 posts of the superintendents of P.T.I. out of 52 posts have remained vacant for a long time. In addition to this, a large number of posts of Upazila Primary Education Officers, Assistant Superintendents of P.T.I. and Head Masters of primary schools also remained vacant for a considerable period of time.

It has been observed that the officers appointed in the higher posts of primary education directorate lack experience about the primary education and least 12 posts in the directorate were filled with the college teachers. These persons had no degree like B.Ed. or M. Ed. even. This has created a sense of frustration among the field level officers of Primary Education Directorate.

It is therefore urged that the government may now, appoint persons having long experience in the primary education only for the proper implementation of the universal primary education programme, otherwise the pious wish of the government to make the primary education compulsory would make little impact.

Abul Qasem Ajad, Dhaka