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## Home Economics College will close Arts Deptt.

By A Staff Reporter

The College of Home Economics is going to close the Department of Arts due to shortage of qualified teachers. The college authorities have suspended the admission of students at the preliminary class during the current session because of this, it is gathered.

The decision has created a sharp reaction among the students of the college, specially those who are studying the subject at the honours level. The honours students have given a representation to the dean of the faculty of biological sciences in a bid to avoid the closure of the department.

The Principal of the college Mrs Rokeya Sultana told the Times that the committee on courses of the institution had taken the decision not to admit students to the preliminary course in the subject this year, as there was only one teacher qualified enough to take classes at honours and master's degree levels

in the department.

She said that even the lone teacher might leave the college. If she was promoted to the post of Associate Professor, because only one such post was sanctioned for the college. There is already one Associate Professor in the college.

Detailing the Principal of the college said, at present the college had only 40 teachers against a total of 1460 students in five departments. But only 18 of the teachers were qualified to take classes at honours and master's levels. The qualified teachers were again distributed unevenly among the departments and the college had to run the courses

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by requesting people from outside to take the classes.

Mrs Rokeya Sultana said that the college tried in vain to have sanction of an increased number of senior teachers. Now there was no alternative but to reduce the number of courses. It was in the Department of arts where the pressure of admission seekers was less, she said.

Asked how the students were now studying the subject at the honours level could have master's degrees in it, she said that the committee on courses had taken the decision to close the course in the best interest of the students. What was the use of doing mockery with higher learning, she asked. She said that the interests of the students now studying honours would be looked into.

Replying to a question Mrs Rokeya Sultana expressed her surprise that instead of giving any representation to her some students had taken the matter to the Dean of the Faculty of Biological Sciences.