



Dearth of education information

By Our Staff Correspondent

A lack of effective monitoring has been adversely affecting educational management particularly the primary education system.

Though there is a serious dearth of management information in Bangladesh education sector, preliminary official reports indicate that there is no system of determining the school catchment area as well as for determining the actual number of school-going children in the country.

The official department of the management information system within the Education Directorate is also not functioning properly while the regulatory duty of periodic school inspections by the inspectors is not being carried out.

As a result, there is an increasing tendency of absenteeism among the primary school-going students which finally results in largescale dropping out among the

failure of the students at the examinations.

According to an official report, over 6 percent primary school-going students have remained absent from school for about 20 days in the month of August and September while over 3 percent students did not attend their classes for over 20 days.

Figures, however, reveal that quite a good number of students in the primary school usually remains absent throughout the month. The schools, however, remain open for about 24 days on average during a month.

The situation has been deteriorating following the largescale dropouts among primary school-going children.

The periodic absence from classes has been identified as one of the main reasons behind the tendency of dropping out among the

schoolgoing children. The management of the primary schools is now in a bad shape as in most of the schools there were no management committees while an awareness among the guardians and teachers is also absent.

The officials of the Education Directorates are also not taking much interest in making compulsory inspections of the schools under their jurisdiction.

The number of schools which do not have any managing committees has increased by over 400 last September compared to August.

The number of associations of guardians also increased to 911 in September compared to 294 in August.

Besides, the most important aspect of the management of the educational institutions is to carry out

periodic inspections of schools which create a linkage between the government and the schools.

In addition, the system usually proved effective with regard to the normal running of the schools as it helps enforcing academic discipline.

But according to official information, the district and upazilla education officers rarely take the trouble of visiting the primary schools.

In a normal period, the district education officers should have to organize tour programs for about ten days. One district education officer can visit one education office along with 3 to 4 schools a day.

Compared to this, the education officials have performed very badly as the total number of inspected schools is far below the expected level.

The field-level inspections of primary schools also show a growing neglect by the education officials which do not draw the attention of the higher echelons of the Education Ministry and Education Directorates.

A total of 4533 schools were inspected by the upazilla education officers in September. The number was 4238 in the preceding month (August).

Though there is a system of submitting a tour diary of the upazilla education officer to the district education officer, the system was not complied with.

Usually, the inspection of admission registers, attendance registers, book distribution and meetings of the managing committees of the schools are parts of the official inspection duties.