

সবিস 13 OCT 1989

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Concern For Education

All over the world there is growing concern among governments for the declining standards and abilities of high school students and institutions reflected in the competence of children, particularly in the areas of science and mathematics; the essential basic tools of the present day high-tech scenario. Educationists are desperately trying to stem the decline with more pragmatic focus on scientific education in an allout effort to prepare future generations for their rightful role in industry in the 21st Century.

With the same abyss yawning at our feet we too must initiate some programme of action to arrest declining standards, in our own educational institutions before it is too late. Out of date text-books on scientific matters and failure to keep abreast of new discoveries has resulted in a move away from science to subjects of liberal arts and our academic form of education has done the rest resulting today in a surplus of liberal arts graduates to the detriment of industry.

Job seekers in Bangladesh are a clear reflection of this situation as those who seek employment consist of 85% from liberal arts whereas only 50% of vacancies are open to them! In an age of computerisation the re-emphasis on scientific education cannot be underscored enough if we are to maintain the image we have of ourselves as capable of producing scientists the equal of any nation. Inability to cope with this situation will result in an increasingly faster slide into oblivion.

South Korea who not so very long ago suffered acutely from poverty and illiteracy can now boast to be the standard bearer in the scientific and mathematical educational sweepstakes. Concern emanating in both Britain and the United States has resulted in large companies, investing in education through financial assistance to progressive programmes designed to improve the mathematical and scientific ability of future employees.

Large industrial concerns here in Bangladesh could perhaps be persuaded to contribute to such scientific and mathematical programmes in recognised institutions in an effort to promote scientific learning among our young if we are to hold our own in increasingly highly technical endeavours on which we depend for rapid industrialisation. Their participation will also ensure future employment opportunities for they will have a stake in the outcome. Involvement in education will we think have a direct bearing on social responsibility and help us to attain our goals more rapidly.

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