

## Problems Of Pre-Primary Schools In Bangladesh

More attention should be given to pre-primary education in the country as it not only helps to increase the rate of primary school enrolment, it also increases attendance and decreases the number of drop-outs. That this indicates the importance of pre-primary education in Bangladesh should be clear; provided it is understood that the objective is not just to teach children nursery rhymes, or arts and crafts etc. but to act as a bridge between school and home.

Problems are bound to arise when a new generation of learners comes on the scene for many come from poor parents who are mainly illiterate, unable to provide their children with the support they need. This means the school environment is often "at odds" with the home environment and children from these backgrounds may find it difficult to adjust. The ideal pre-primary education must therefore also work to reduce the differences between the home and school. This means greater attention paid to what is being taught.

Those of us who are educated take a lot for granted when we place our small children in kindergartens or pre-primary schools. We know our homes can provide the right kind of support and cooperation children need. Few if any give any thought to the unfair competition in which are placed children from poor families who feel like fish out of water in their new environment. But as pre-primary education creates the opportunity for children to mix freely it is an important place for social adjustment.

However, if all this is to be attained, the present system must be improved so as to ensure education for all children in the age group of four to six years, no matter what their backgrounds. Proper facilities must be on hand in all pre-primary schools throughout the country. In other words, improving the present facilities in Bengali medium schools must be a top priority if pre-primary education is to be at all effective. In addition to this, teachers must be trained to deal with students from poor often uneducated, backgrounds in order to bring them up to par with the more fortunate children.

We must also be mindful that such children are placed in an environment completely different from the home; therefore they may need extra care in adjusting, as this is the "make or break" period of schooling. That there is a need to do something to improve the existing system in pre-primary schools is clear. However the curriculum followed at present may not be at all suitable for poor children and we should be careful not to overburden a child with facts and figures beyond his or her ability to comprehend. This can be achieved by undertaking a comprehensive study of the curricula in all schools and extracting the best parts from each, amalgamate it into a single whole, which can then be enforced on all pre-primary schools in Bangladesh.