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## Enrollment rate up in primary schools

As the bell rings in a typical primary school, a crowd of boys and girls ran out of the classrooms. They then start running around in the school yard and get busy in various games, reports BSS.

This is a common scene in the remote villages and towns all over the country these days as the enrolment rate in primary schools has gone phenomenally up in recent time. Boys and girls are now going to schools in large numbers.

In spite of various problems, the country has so far achieved significant progress in primary education. But it is yet to reach hundred percent target.

Under Bangladesh constitution, section 17(A), primary education for all has been made tuition free and mandatory as a fundamental right of the citizen.

Bangladesh is also committed to make the primary education free and compulsory in the light of the Juntion declaration of Thailand. One of the positive features of this declaration is that following that declaration, enrolment of girl students in schools along with boys has increased manifold.

According to a survey on student enrolment in primary schools carried out in 1999, the proportion of girl students in the age group between 6 to 10 was 79.7 percent while in case of boys it was 76.7 percent.

Again, according to a latest survey carried out by the directorate of primary education in 2005, the proportion of male students in the primary schools stood at 91.2 percent while it was 96.2 percent for female students.

As per the baseline survey, out of the boys and girls being enrolled in primary schools, female students constitute 51 percent compared to 40 percent male child. Although, the number of girls enrolment to primary schools appear higher, their drop out are also higher. And their rate of enrolment to secondary schools transcends to be very poor.

At secondary level, the proportion of girl students now stands at 37 percent. Although the stipend and other facilities for boys and girls are treated at equal rates under government supported scheme of the primary education activities, there is a tendency of higher enrolment of girl students as more boys drop out in the villages to take up income generating activities.

As the boys grow up, they start engaging themselves in farming of other labor market. As a result, their enrolment to secondary level decreases.

Not only the government, many non-government organizations these days are engaged to provide primary education for children. 'O Parajaye Bangla' one such NGO has been running primary education programme throughout the country. Street children and such other disadvantaged group are getting enrolment facilities in its outlets.

BRAC education programmes is being carried out to ensure primary education to 60 percent girls along with boys. At this moment, BRAC is running 20 thousand pre-primary schools and 32 thousand informal primary schools.

Children who are dropped out from formal schooling because of poverty and gender discrimination get scope in these facilities. There is a growing tendency in girls to come up in large number to get enrolment in primary schools but their drop out rate is also higher.