

155

Primary Education: Infrastructure Development Programmes

Director General
Directorate of Primary Education

In order to achieve overall improvement in primary education, the Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) was established in the year 1981. The main objectives of development programmes for primary education are development of physical infrastructure and expansion of training facilities. To achieve the objectives of "Education for All by the year 2000", steps for raising enrollment of school age group children, reduction of drop-out rate, provision for expansion of physical facilities of schools, the distribution of books free of cost to the students, the community participation for the expansion of primary education are taken up by the Directorate.

To increase the equitable access to primary schooling, to improve quality of education and strengthen the management capacity of primary education different development programmes have been undertaken by the Directorate. Under the "General Education Project", 'Development of Primary Education in Dhaka, Rajshahi and Khulna Division' and 'Development of Primary Education in Chittagong Division' are the two main

projects undertaken by the Directorate of Primary Education. The main targets for the above two projects were reconstruction and repair of 10,000 class rooms, construction of 12,000 new low cost class rooms, development of 36 district primary education offices and 44 PTI's, establishment of a divisional complex in Chittagong and construction of 200 Satellite Schools.

In order to rehabilitate and reconstruct the flood damaged schools of 1988, different post flood development projects were

undertaken with the assistance of IDA, EEC, and IDB. The main programmes of post flood rehabilitation project are reconstruction of 1682 and repair of 4152 flood affected schools. The IDA assisted project is in final stage for completion.

Asian Development Bank, Saudi Government and OPEC also have come forward to rehabilitate the cyclone damaged primary schools of 1991. With the assistance of above donors, repair of 1707 cyclone damaged primary schools and reconstruction of 605 primary schools have been undertaken. In addition to these, 333 primary school-

cum-cyclone-shelters will be constructed with Saudi grant. The construction programme for 150 primary schools buildings cum-cyclone-shelter will also be undertaken with the assistance of EEC. Another 500 primary schools will be constructed with the financing of Islamic Development Bank. Under the revenue budget there is a programme for the rehabilitation and repair of old primary schools which are in dilapidated condition and were constructed in 1970s.

To introduce compulsory primary education programme through out the country a legislation was enacted in 1990 and primary education was declared compulsory throughout the country. In order to meet the growing demand for universalisation of primary education, a development programme for the reconstruction and repair of existing registered non-

government primary schools have also been undertaken by the government which will be implemented with government's own resources. It is expected that with the successful implementation of above programme Education for All will become a reality.