

Primary teachers' Primary teachers training upgraded

The Government has decided to upgrade the primary teachers training from existing one year to a two-year curricula programme an official source said in Dhaka on Tuesday, reports BSS.

The new programme, scheduled to be introduced in all 49 Primary Training Institutes (PTI) in September next, aims at strengthening primary school teaching and to provide higher training and educational experience to the teachers of primary schools.

The basic considerations for the introduction of the new programme the source said, are to ensure uniform and upgraded minimum education and training for the primary teachers and to extend further opportunities for career advancement to the primary teachers.

With the introduction of the new two-year programme the PTI-trained persons will now receive certificate equivalent to the higher secondary certificate (HSC) and will have required qualifications to enter for higher education either in the field of teaching or in general stream of Bachelor degree in addition to jobs to the primary schools.

The source, however, made it clear that the new programme will not affect the one-year PTI trained teachers in anyway.

The major thrust of the new course will be the source said, to attract more talented people to the profession of primary tea-

chers and to raise the quality of primary education in the country by improving their educational background and teaching skills and also by linking the primary training programmes with avenues for higher education.

The National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC) is now busy preparing syllabi for the newly-introduced programme, the source said adding that the NCDC is expected to finalise the syllabi by next month. Necessary details regarding conduct of the examination and other related affairs are being worked out.

The one-year certificate in education course has long been deemed inadequate by all concerned the source said. The Education Commission of 1974 and the National Syllabi and Curricula Development Committee of 1975-78, also recommended to extend the duration of the course from one year to two years and to give it equivalence to the Higher Secondary Certificate. The minimum qualification prescribed for admission into the programme will be a second division in Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination.

Earlier the source said, in the one-year course minimum qualification fixed for admission at Higher Secondary Certificate for males and at least S.S.C. for females. Thus the Certificate-in-

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Education course had no equivalence and no link with normal higher education streams in the country.

A two-year Intermediate in Education (I-Ed course) was once previously introduced but at that time, as the primary teachers were not government servants and they were not eligible for government pay scales very few people enrolled themselves to the programme. Basically, an undetermined future and a very low salary prospect discouraged the people to qualify for teaching in primary schools.

An upgraded primary teachers training programme which is being introduced now with a prospect for future advancement, both in the fields of teaching and general education will generate a sense of job security and better career prospect to the primary teachers, the source hoped.

Under the new programme, the students of the primary training institutes, in cases of turnover vacancies, will receive monthly stipend at the rate of Taka 150. Of the total students, fifty per cent will be from the deputed primary teachers and the rest fifty per cent from outsiders.

Those students the source pointed out, who shall receive stipends will require to serve the government for five years before they may be allowed to change their profession or re-enter for further education.

At present there are 43,668 primary schools in the country, of

which 36,668 are government and the rest 7000 non-government. the number of primary schools in the country are 1,57,040, excluding about 30000 in the private schools.

According to the estimates, every year about 8000 posts of primary teachers fall vacant due to various reasons including death, retirement etc.

Under the old course, the primary training institutes could produce 9000 trained teachers, but with the introduction of the new programme of two years, existing capacity of the institutes will be able to produce 4500 trained teachers annually.

To meet the shortage, the source said, the capacity of the individual training institutes would be gradually increased from existing 200 to 300 seats. in addition to that, opening of primary teachers education in other colleges will also be given consideration, the source added.

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