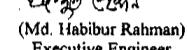


Education


 (Md. Habibur Rahman)
 Executive Engineer
 Rajshahi O&M Division
 BWDB, Rajshahi.

GREECE is a democratic (parliamentary) republic (official name- Hellenic Republic). It is located in Southern Europe, bordering the Aegean Sea, Ionian Sea, and the Mediterranean Sea, between Albania and Turkey. The country covers a total area of about 131,940 square kilometers (slightly smaller than Bangladesh) harboring fewer than 11 million (10,706,290 estimated in July 2007) people, only about 1/15th of Bangladesh. Population growth rate in Greece, though positive, is negligible (0.163%) in place of Bangladesh's positive 2%.

Greece achieved its independence from the Ottoman Empire in 1829. During the second half of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century, it gradually added neighboring islands and territories, most with Greek-speaking populations. In World War II, Greece was first invaded by Italy (1940) and subsequently occupied by Germany (1941-44); fighting endured in a protracted civil war between royalists supporters of the king and communist rebels. Following the latter's defeat in 1949, Greece was able to join NATO in 1952. A military dictatorship, which in 1967 suspended many political liberties and forced the king to flee the country, lasted seven years. The 1974 democratic elections and a referendum created a parliamentary republic and abolished the monarchy. Greece joined the European Community (EC) in 1981 and became the 12th member of the euro zone in 2001 (under EU formed in 1992).

The per capita income in Greece is about US \$24,000 (estimated in 2006) and was \$ 22,300 in 2005 when the country was ranked at 45 in the world. The literacy rate is about 96% (as defined by age 15 and over being able to read and write) in Greece. The country spends over 4% of its GDP in education. The figure is about double of Bangladesh (being at best 2.4%, one source gives a figure of only 1.3%).

Education is the undoubtedly way to enrich the people with required knowledge, skills and attitudes in any country. Requirement for these attributes changes over time and curriculum needs periodic revision. Bangladesh completed the third cycle in revising the primary curriculum during 1998-2001 and such a revision is overdue (due was by 2006) on the lower secondary just now and secondary and higher secondary levels should follow this accordingly. Therefore we can have a look into the education system of this developed European country.

It may be mentioned here that Greece is an ancient civilization very famous for production and dissemination of knowledge. Socrates, Plato and Aristotle were bearing the light of knowledge there when the rest of the world was mostly in the dark. That is why after a round tour on major European education systems, I am culminating here in Greece. Now we can see what we can learn from this torch-bearer nation. The following description follows the usual format having Education Administration and Finance, the Structure, the Program of Study, Assessment System, and lastly some Lessons for Bangladesh.

1-Education Administration and Finance

The Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs formulates and implements legislation, coordinates and evaluates regional services, administers financial support, approves primary and secondary school curricula and appoints teaching staff. The prefectures (or, in large prefectures, the education offices) supervise schools, facilitate co-ordination between schools and have responsibility for school buildings and equipment.

Although Greece has both public and private schools, over 90% of pupils attend public-sector schools and less than 10% private non-grant-aided schools. Private primary and secondary schools are recognized as equivalent to state schools, and remain under the supervision and inspection of the Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs. They are fully self-financed. There are

also special private schools for nationals residing in Greece.

Corporation

co-ordinates school activities Division ensuring that the school special Area, Dhaka Teachers' councils implement monitor student attendance committees have administrative budgets for heating, lighting

ment. Higher education institution under the auspices of the Ministry of Religious Affairs. (TM)

Prefectures and education fund

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II- The Structure

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Greece. Pre-primary education NBR

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the general structure become

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Day as Meena Day is commemorated across the country. The Day is commemorated with the aim of highlighting the values that are important while also recognizing the importance of children's leisure.

Meena is the female character who was born in Bangladesh. She is a community advocate for children, particularly girls' rights to protection, education, Meena Day was observed in 1998.

The day will be observed in Dhaka and all six districts with this year's focus on registration for all. Registration is an important service as it gives children access to education, health care and other important services.

Several programs have been chalked out for the Meena Day. The National Institute of Primary Education has a programme at LG with the participation of 400 children and government officials. The programme will improve children's performance in Meena television.

The Bureau of Education (BNFE), Ministry and Mass Communication will organize a program from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm in the Library auditorium. The members of the working group will participate in the programme.

In the afternoon, the National Academy will organize a programme for children to celebrate the Day. Sh

will also organize a drama competition and a petition and theatre competition in 64 districts.

Meena drama

staged in different parts of Dhaka city by the

a truck carrying life

of Meena, Raju and

accompanied by a

performers.

English La

Lab ope

Daffodil

An English Laboratory was inaugurated at the International University yesterday with a view to improving the students' English, reports BS.

It will conduct 11 standard courses in English in

vision of 11 distinguished members to help

improve their skill in English and writing English.

It will release the university

today.

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