

# Education

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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 1/15<sup>th</sup> 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 royalist 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 undoubted 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, education institutes.

In both public and private co-ordinates school activities, ensuring that the school Teachers' councils implement monitor student attendance, mittees have administrative budgets for heating, lighting

ment. Higher education institutes under the auspices of the Ministry of Religious Affairs. Prefectures and education inspection. School advisers

## II- The Structure

Greece follows the very system consisting of the primary there is a system of state-run Greece. Pre-primary education ages of 3/4/5/6, and is provided by Nipiagogeio) that are either primary school. State-run kind but private ones takes fees.

Primary education lasts for years of the world) and is (called Dimotiko scholeio). lasts for three years (again schools that pertain lower junior high schools (Gymn and lower secondary combined.

Upper secondary education and usually lasts for 3 years. schools (Lykeio). But at this technical education as well.

The general structure becomes

## Higher Education

Higher education consists university level studies. Non is provided in the Institutions (TEI). Studies in TEI last for including the compulsory p the completion of a graduate Ptychio TEI (Degree of Techn

University level studies are: one is the undergraduate le Spoudes). Undergraduate p ties normally last for four year to the Ptychio in the relevant

Dentistry, Engineering and last for ten semesters. In The study program contains

courses. Each semester, number of compulsory cour program and a number of elec

University level second sta (Metaptychiakon Spoudes). T ate studies, of duration of a m leads to the Postgraduate (Metaptychiako Diploma Ex gram may be carried out and research institute outside Gree awarded in Greece.

University level third stage torikes Metaptychiakes Spou (Didaktoriko) is conferred after thesis. The research must be o in research and science. A doc

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brated across the Day is commemor with the aim of hig that are importa while also recogni tance of children, lease.

Meena is the character who was in Bangladesh. She nized throughout she is a commu advocates for child larly girls' rights to protection, access Meena Day was off in 1998.

The day will be Dhaka and all six with this year's for registration for all registration is an as it gives children cation, health care portant services.

Several program have been chalked the Meena Day. T of Primary Educatio a programme at LG with the participa 400 children and h ernment officials programme will i dren's performance of Meena television

The Bureau of Education (BNFE Ministry and Mass organize a program am to 2:00 pm Library auditorium ers of the working ject will participa gramme.

In the aftern Academy will orga programme for, ch brate the Day. Sh will also organize a petition and theatre 64 districts.

Meena drama staged in differe Dhaka city by thea a truck carrying life of Meena, Raju a companied by a performers.

## English Language Lab open Daffodil

An English Language Lab was inaugurated yesterday with a vision of improving the students' English, reports BSN.

It will conduct 12 standard courses to vision of 'disting members to help improve their skill ing and writing E release of the univ today.

MD. Zahangir Alam  
General Manager (Engg.)  
Engineering & Estate Division.

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