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## SECONDARY EDUCATION

# Project to improve quality begins in July

The Secondary Education Access and Quality Enhancement Project (SEAQEP), which will provide stipends to both poorer boys and girls in secondary education, is now being prepared and it will be implemented from July 2008, says a press release.

A high level Task Force and a Project Preparation Team of the government are working on the preparation based on inputs from consultation with stakeholders. The project will be supported by the World Bank.

The proposed project will be implemented in 121 upazilas. Although a follow-up to the second

Female Secondary School Assistance Project (FSSAP II) of the government, which ends on June 30, 2008, the SEAQEP would include a number of new dimensions.

It aims to provide targeted support to the poorer girls and boys; improve academic performance through incentive awards to students, schools and teachers; extend additional support to teachers and students in teaching and learning; provide water and sanitation facilities to retain girls in school and develop an effective monitoring and evaluation system.

FSSAP II has already helped more than 8,00,000 girls with stipends that

improved SSC pass rates for stipend girls from 39 percent in 2001 to 60 percent in 2007.

A training programme has reached 19000 stakeholders, large from the communities, while some 6000 institutions were brought under school management and accountability training programme.

The Mobile Training Resource Teams (MTRTs) pilot has shown positive results. A Family Attractiveness Programme to identify out-of-secondary-school girls from very poor families living in remote and economically disadvantaged areas has been introduced under this programme.