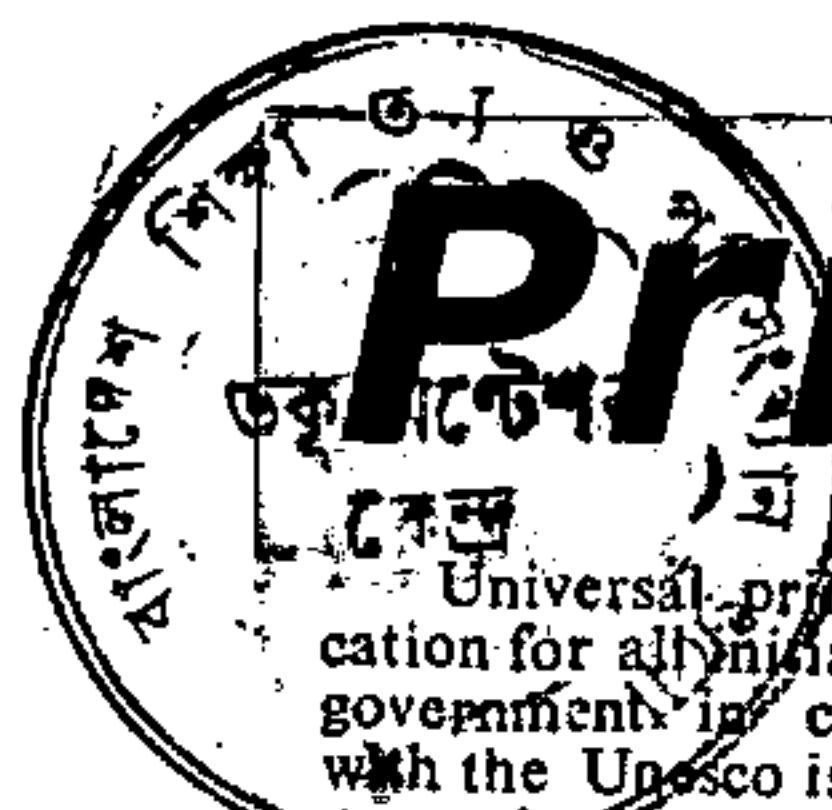


CL

তারিখ 04 NOV 1988
পৃষ্ঠা... 11 ... 5

3



Primary education

Universal primary education for all initiated by the government in collaboration with the Unesco is facing serious setbacks due to carelessness, indifference, insincerity of the teaching staff and the government as well natural calamities.

Teaching staff & Local Administration

According to some educationists the teachers community



Student rarely get facilities for sports.

is mainly responsible for this. The primary school teachers especially in the rural areas are found indifferent to their duty.

It is learnt that classes in the rural primary schools, are to start a 10 a m, but though the students attend their classes before the scheduled time they are to waste their class time playing, singing and dancing on the campus.

After visiting a good number of primary schools I could learn that the teachers in many schools do not attend the school in time as most of the teachers are engaged either in manual or household work or in ploughing the paddy fields and attend their school at 12 noon after heavy work. Consequently, they come tired and take rest instead of taking classes. Even they sleep in the school.

Some guardians disclosed that they find their children weeding out the white hair from the head of the teacher.

It is learnt that the teachers engage the good students to teach the other students, or ask the students to learn by heart the old lesson or indicate some pages of a chapter to be learnt without explaining it.

The Text Book Board introduced books based on practical knowledge according to the recommendation of the educational experts and renowned educationists of the country. Special training and teaching on the new system were extended to the teachers by arranging seminars, symposia and workshop. But it is not understandable how the teachers instruct the good students to teach their classmates.

While talking to the New Nation over some specific allegations against a mathematics teacher of Meah Bazar primary school, UEO, Chaudagram told that he had no authority to take any punitive measure against the teachers but all the power lay with the upazila chairman.

It is also gathered that the absentee teachers mysteriously take the opportunity of putting signature on the attendance book by pleasing their controlling bosses. They refrain from duty for days or weeks together without sending any leave application to the offices of the upazila education officers.

In some rural primary schools teachers get a huge sum of money from the students as admission, examination fee and fines. It is learnt there is no provision for taking money or any fee from the students for admission or examination but the teachers take at least Tk 10 as admission fees.

EXAMINATION FEE

Examination fee is another burden for the students coming from poor families. Thus they cannot get themselves admitted by paying scheduled fees. On the other hand, the teachers are realizing huge sum of money as examination fee. A good majority of the students can not appear at the examination due to unavoidable reasons. If a student fails to appear at the examination, his or her name is struck off the register.

Thus a large number of students are decreasing from the primary school and being deprived of primary education.

A source close to Upazila Primary Education Officers Association of Bangladesh disclosed that there is no rule that the students will have to get themselves re-admitted to appear at the examinations yet the teachers are taking readmission fees.

As per govt. instruction every student will have to be promoted to the next higher class either he appears at the examination or not. He or she will not be allowed to spend two years in a class. This is only for keeping all the students on the roll till the end of the primary education. But, the teachers are doing things contrary to this.

SCHOOL BLDG/APPLIANCES AND FURNITURE

According to a survey report, a large proportion of total primary educational institutions are kutcha. Even most of them have no protective roof. There is not even adequate number of chairs, tables, blackboards, benches, and educational appliances. Besides, these kutcha school houses fall victim to the natural calamities like cyclone, storms, heavy wind and floods. As a result, classes cannot be held in these institutions. It is also observed that classes are held either under the open sky or under big trees. No class is held especially during

Mahbubur Rashid
the rainy days.

Some educationists suggest that the local authority and the higher authority concerned should make arrangements for paying vigilant or surprise visit to the edu-



Education of these children suffer at primary schools.

cational institutions and submit their report to the higher authority which may help take necessary action against the corrupt teaching staff responsible for not making UPES a success by the year 2000. The educationists added that the government as well as the local administration should take necessary steps to create fund so as to solve the problems within the shortest possible time.