

Teacher shortage plagues 60pc govt pry schools

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SIX out of ten government primary schools are running with fewer than needed teachers and of them 8,560 such institutions in hard to reach areas are facing acute shortage educator as only three teachers are imparting lessons to their students there in each school.

Shortage of teachers affects day to day academic activities let alone quality of education, which is one of the reasons why government primary school stu-

dents are falling behind non-government schools and kindergartens, academics as well as teachers' representatives note.

Final draft of Bangladesh Primary Education Annual Sector Performance Report – 2017 shows that 8,564 government primary schools are facing acute teacher shortages as 79 of them are running with only one teacher, 721 with only two teachers and 7,764 with just three teachers.

The report says that at least four working teachers are required in each school,

otherwise 'it is not possible to deliver quality education'.

'It is true that we are facing shortage of teachers but we are recruiting teachers to address the shortage,' director general of Directorate of Primary Education Abu Hena Mostofa Kamal said.

Campaign for Popular Education executive director Rasheda K Choudhury said that UNESCO recommends one teacher for each class so there should be at least six teachers as primary schools now have six classes — pre-primary to class V.

On that accounts, 38,856 out of total 64,122 government primary school are running with less than six teachers, according to the APSC report 2017.

The report said that 8,564 government primary schools are running with up to three teachers, while 22,527 schools are running with four teachers and 7,765 schools are running with five teachers.

'It is evident that there is a shortage of teachers in the remote area schools. Incentives are needed to attract

teachers from urban to rural areas to address the situation,' the report suggests.

Schools having one or two teachers are the worst sufferer as these teachers need to double up as administrators, clerks and others.

If one teacher falls sick, children's education suffers badly, said Mohammad Shamsuddin, a leader of Primary Assistant Teachers Greater Alliance, also president of Bangladesh Primary School Assistant Teachers Association.

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