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Software in education

Many times in the past plans have failed because the information on which these were based were not accurate and did not reflect the true situation. Sometimes implementation of important development projects were abandoned halfway because there had been an inadequate feedback in the form of information. In other situations, we have not been able to fully utilise the information available due to the absence of a proper management of information. This is true as much in the economic sphere as in education.

It is said that one of the major differences between the advanced and the underdeveloped countries is that the former have all the information they require and are able to manage these properly while the latter lag behind in both the aspects of compilation of information and their eventual utilisation. The government seems now to be giving more stress on the collection of accurate information and their proper management. This is evident from the expansion in the use of computer technology in various government departments. Last Wednesday, Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad opened a computerised system of educational management. The adoption of the new, modern system should bring about more than a cosmetic change in the education sector which is not only important but also large.

It remains to be seen, how the Education Ministry and its various departments put to use the new software. The Ministry itself is saddled with the arduous task of replacing the old education system with a modern one oriented to the needs of the time. As it goes about phase by phase unveiling the new system, it will have to be aware of the acceptability and the utility of the reforms. In other words, it must take cognizance of the feedback from the students, the teachers and the guardians on the effectiveness of the new system.

The software can come to be of great help in this area of collecting necessary information at the level of the recipients and the users of the system. Planners can then go about scissoring and remodelling in areas where this becomes essential due to our own objective situation. It is good that the government began using computers in the education sphere right at the beginning of the introduction of a new education policy. Planners should now be more equipped than before to draw up accurate programmes of action instead of guessing with scanty and unreliable information.