

Primary Education

If elementary learning of three R's helps one read and write, primary education imparted methodically can do wonders in equipping one with the knowledge urgently needed for compliance with the norms of human life. This, in other words, means that it guides one in identifying one's problems relating to oneself, one's family and society and finding solution thereto. Briefly, it constitutes the foundation stone on which the citadel of one's life is based. It is therefore heartening that the government has taken steps to introduce compulsory, universal and free primary education in the country. And out of the total allocation of Tk. 775 crore in the education sector under the Second Five-Year Plan, 43 per cent will be spent for this purpose.

But mere introduction of primary education would not do. In view of its paramount importance in one's life, it must be made perfectly sound and practical. For a great many children belonging to the poor and low-income group families do not go for higher studies. Due to financial constraints, they have to adopt a vocation to supplement their family income. So, in the first place, it is not important how

voluminous is the curriculum of studies but how well the students are taught the subjects selected for them. In the second, when education is made practical, it can be expected to help the students face the challenges of life. In short, with a view to converting our human resources into a productive force, steps must be geared up to expedite the introduction of vocational education and training at the academic institutions.

Greater emphasis should, however, be laid on the introduction of this education and training at the primary level. For, after completion of primary education, rural children in most cases do not go for further studies. As hard reality would have it, education of this level can never help them find any good jobs. Consequently, most of them suffer hardship in life. Vocational education and training would undoubtedly be a boon to them. For this will equip them with the knowledge and skill that will enable them to get honest living. It is, however, to be seen that vocational education and training at the primary level must aim at the development of the students' potential qualities.