

Programme to eradicate illiteracy

TYP envisages universal primary education

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By A Staff Reporter

The draft Two-Year Plan proposes setting the stage for "attaining universal primary education in the country at an early date and eradication of illiteracy through non-formal education."

Total allocation for the education sector is Taka 168.87 crore of which Taka 150.84 crore have been earmarked for on-going schemes and Taka 18.03 crore for new schemes, thus keeping expansion and creation of new capacity beyond what was visualised in the First Plan to the bare minimum.

The draft also proposes: a) diversification of secondary education by introducing science and craft courses in 700 schools at thana headquarters and consolidation of teacher training facilities by providing hostel accommodation for female trainees in the existing primary training institutes, b) extension of facilities in technical and vocational education in the rural areas by establishing more vocational training institutes, c) development of at least one girls' high school in every thana headquarters with science and craft courses, d)

steps to introduce vocational and craft courses at different madrasahs in line with polytechnic or vocational education e) development or nationalisation of selected non-government schools and colleges at thana and sub-divisional headquarters, f) consolidation of existing facilities at the universities for more productive use and g) steps for all around development of cultural activities, games and sports at national regional and local levels.

PRIMARY EDUCATION

Development of 20,000 primary schools scheduled to be completed during the First Plan period (1973-78) will now be completed by 1980. When completed it will be a major step towards introduction of universal primary education. The Plan also provides for the establishment of new primary schools for children of tea garden labourers, community schools and creation of facilities for organisation of rural games for primary school children.

A non-formal education programme for eradication of illiteracy will be undertaken and all available formal, non-formal and informal mass media

would be utilised for the purpose.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

With a view to arresting the deterioration in the quality of secondary education, the scheme for development of 700 non-government secondary schools at rural thana headquarters (taken up during the First Plan) will be completed. These schools are expected to be provided with physical facilities at par with the existing government schools. The Plan proposes development of four secondary schools in Dacca city and three cantonment schools and introduction of science teaching and commercial courses in selected rural secondary schools.

COLLEGE EDUCATION

The Two-Year Plan seeks to develop the existing government and non-government colleges particularly in respect of laboratory facilities, books and equipment for qualitative improvement of college education in the country. The Plan provides for completion of the on-going projects, development and nationalisation of selected colleges, conversion of four colleges into university colleges, development of all women's college at district headquarters with science bias. The development of 179 non-government colleges (taken up during the First Plan) will be completed conversion of the existing residential model schools into cadet colleges will also be taken up in phases. The Plan proposes development of degree colleges of outlying sub-divisions.

The new Plan provides for development of 47 existing

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primary training institutes and establishment of four new primary training institutes, development of six teachers' training colleges and conversion of four colleges of education into teachers' training colleges, improvement of Bangladesh Education Extension and Research Institute and establishment of an education extension centre at Rajshahi. The Plan also proposes establishment of an academy for fundamental education.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION

During the Two-Year Plan the incomplete works of three engineering colleges will be completed. Three new polytechnics including a women's polytechnic will be established. The Polytechnic Institute at Joydevpur will be converted into technical education staff college and the IDA financial revised scheme for expansion of five polytechnics will be completed during the Plan period. Degree section will be opened at the Dacca Textile Institute. Under the Plan the existing 22 vocational training institutes at sub-division level will be suitably equipped and 17 more at thana level will also be completed. Special emphasis will be given on the introduction of non-formal vocational training course for the unemployed and under-employed youths in rural areas while

commercial education including secretarial science will receive due attention.

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

The Plan proposes qualitative improvement of university education and expansion of research facilities in the universities. Physical programmes include the completion of incomplete works of the on-going schemes of six universities and completion of the special schemes for the universities of Dacca, Rajshahi, Chittagong and Jahangirnagar. During the Plan development works of eight institutes under the universities will be accelerated and the special projects on sports and games facilities will be completed on priority basis. The Plan provides for transfer of scholarships and stipends from developments budget to revenue budget. For ensuring smooth transfer a sum of Taka 2.68 crore have been proposed in the first year (1978-79) of the plan.

SPORTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The Two-Year Plan also provides for the development of playgrounds, coaching centres and sports institutes and the scout and girl guide movements. The construction of Comilla stadium and development of the Women's Sports Complex at Dacca will be undertaken during the plan. Efforts will also be made to broaden the base of cultural institution at all levels and for the purpose works for development of Bangal Academy, National Museum, National Book Centre, Archaeology and museum, libraries and national archives will be completed. Besides, funds will be made available for development of fine arts. A scheme will also be drawn up for the establishment of a youth palace in Dacca during the Plan.