

# PRY EDN QUALITY IMPROVEMENT REPORT: Pay hike for teachers recommended

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The consultation committee on quality improvement of primary and non-formal education on Monday recommended immediate pay rise for the government primary school teachers.

The committee also recommended abolition of the primary assistant teacher position at the entry level replacing it with teacher's position and upgrade the entry level salary to the 12th grade from the current 13th.

It also recommended that appointment to the head teachers should be done through a promotion system rather than following the current system of appointing them by the primary and mass education ministry based on recommendations. It also suggested an upgrade of the head teachers' salaries to 10th grade from the current 11th grade.

The adviser to the primary and mass education ministry Bidhan Ranjan Roy Podder submitted the committee report to chief adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus on Monday evening.

After the report submission, committee head Manzoor Ahmed at a press briefing, held at the Foreign Service Academy in the capital, presented some key recommendations.

At the briefing, the adviser said that if the teachers agreed to the recommendations the government would take initiative for their implementation.

The ministry on September 30 last year formed the 9-member consultation committee, tasking it with giving recommendations on quality improvement.

Manzoor Ahmed, also BRAC University professor emeritus, said that they gave over 100 recommendations on eight subjects, including teaching and learning, students assessment, teachers and education workers and professionals, access and elimination of discrimination, pre-primary education, non-formal learning and out of school children, education management, some cross-cutting issues and implementation of reforms.

The committee gave recommendations implementable in immediate, medium and long terms after sharing opinions with different groups and visiting 12 upazilas under 11 districts, he said.

Replying to a question, Manzoor said that the primary completion examination would no longer be held.

Some of their other recommendations include giving special emphasis on the students for achieving skills in Bangla and mathematics, introducing only one shift in all schools within 10 years, appointing para-teachers (education-assistants) for the children lagging behind, identifying the schools by green, yellow and red colours based on fundamental skills surveys, introducing mid-day meal, special arrangement for the underprivileged students, a permanent education commission, making education universal till Class XII, and forming of an education consultative council.

Manzoor Ahmed urged the government to take a quick decision on the recommendations and adopt a time-bound integrated implementation action plan.

The fifth primary education development programme and the government's annual budget for the sector would be the main driving force for implementing the recommendations, he added.