

# Govt defends prog as incentive for children from low-income families

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The government primary scholarship examinations will work as a financial incentive for the children from low-income families for continuing their education, said the primary and mass education ministry in a statement on Saturday.

The statement, issued on the day, also read that the allegation that government primary scholarship examination is discriminatory was not true.

The Bangladesh Kindergarten Unity Council on July 23 held a press conference at the National Press Club where its leaders criticised the government's decision to exclude private school students from the forthcoming primary scholarship exams as a 'conspiracy' and 'discrimination'.

The ministry statement read that the press conference had come to their attention and they issued the statement to clear the ministry's position on the scholarship exams.

The statement said that government primary scholarship exams for Class V students were a part of the government's different initiatives being implemented to improve the quality of education.

According to the educational statistics, most of the students of the government primary schools are from low-income families, while the students going to kindergartens are from relatively well-off families.

The statement also said that the kindergartens had kindergarten association scholarship exams for Classes II–V students in which the students of the government primary schools were not allowed to take part.

Demands had been raised by the guardians of the students from the government primary schools to hold scholarship exams in the government ones, it continued.

As per Article 17 (ka) of the constitution and the Primary Education (Compulsory) Act, 1990, the government is mandated to ensure all primary level children's.