

তারিখ ... .. ১৫/০৪/২০০০  
পৃষ্ঠা ... .. ২৪

## OPEN LETTER TO HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER TO ENSURE QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL

Hon'ble Prime Minister,

Accept our thanks for your personal commitment and ceaseless efforts of your government to ensure quality education for all.

An EFA review meeting of the world forum is going to be held in Dakar, Senegal in April, 2000. We will have the opportunity to present our problems, hurdles, successes and perspectives in the meeting. We sincerely wish that the active and meaningful participation of Bangladesh delegation will offer some positive points.

Education is a universal human right. As per the articles 17-a-b and c of Bangladesh Constitution it is the responsibility of the State to ensure the fundamental right to education for every citizen of the country. We know your government is committed to this task. We feel more optimistic as we see that the rate of children's education has increased, the equity of boys and girls has been achieved. We are proud of this achievement. But, Hon'ble Prime Minister, probably you know that even now, a considerable number of children remain outside the school. And those, in the school, do not have access to quality education. Opportunities for work and life-oriented education are still limited. The access of people of different religious faiths and ethnic groups to education still remains a matter of neglect. Programmes to eradicate illiteracy and the methods of teaching for the adolescents, young people and adults are not adequate. Steps are yet to be taken to integrate the disabled into the mainstream of education which can only ensure their human rights. Integrated efforts to include the working children and adolescents are still quite limited. In this context, in order to achieve the objectives of EFA our demands are :

- ensure integrated and indiscriminate quality education for all as enshrined in the Constitution
- increase total allocation in the education sector in the national budget and arrange equitable sector-wise allocation
- replace the planning, implementation and management of education of the disabled from the Ministry of Social Welfare to the Ministry of Education
- ensure the participation of parents, teachers and members of the civil society at all levels of education policy and in its implementation
- prepare national education policy for the disadvantaged, working adolescents and ensure its implementation
- ensure all necessary arrangements for reading materials, class-rooms, quality teachers and other equipments for quality education
- integrate all kinds of non-government efforts including those of NGOs to ensure free compulsory and quality education for all children, adolescents and adult illiterates
- ensure quality early childhood care and opportunities of education.

Hon'ble Head of the Government,

We promise our all-out co-operation to the government in the implementation of our above-mentioned demands. We hope, your personal commitment and the positive and bold steps of the government will initiate new dynamism in achieving the objectives of education for all and ensure quality education for all,—children, adolescents, young people, adults, boys and girls and men and women.

*on behalf of*

**Shammilita Shakkharata Ovijan & Education Coalition in Bangladesh**

*Courtesy : Campaign for Popular Education, NFOWD, ActionAid-Bangladesh, Oxfam-GB, Global Campaign for Education*