

LETTERS

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Ministry Of Education

Your editorial (19.4.1987) really indicates the alarming situation in the field of education that through a recent order, Government, might take measures to curtail financial leverage in regard to the non-Govt. educational institutions and establishment of schools. Though the burden may be too much, in no way should education be discouraged. Total educational institutions: 44200. Primary Schools, 9440 High Schools, 276 Int. Colleges, 366 Degree Colleges and 3429 Madrashes are not disproportionate to the country's population.

Presumably the order of the Ministry has no bearing with the views of World Bank inspectors, who suggested that Bangladesh should consider withdrawing subsidies from higher education in order to increase the Govt. revenue and the Ministry has taken this measure to limit the activities of Directorates, Boards etc. and so stays wide-spread indiscipline and corruption. When the Govt. has taken decision to decentralise the administration through the upazila system, instead of allowing the upazilas to deal with such affairs why is the Ministry concentrating the power in their own hands after Govt. has established the Directorate of Inspection & Audit for Schools to monitor the financial and administrative activities of Schools. Why does the Ministry not investigate the activities of school Audit Directorate, to find out if they are capable of handling the 13,00 schools and madrashes' annual audit report? Who are they appointing as auditors? Are the auditors legally competent, and is it logical, to fix a sweeping audit fee of Tk. 300/- to 500/- for Madrashes and Tk. 800/- for High School and Collage, irrespective of the volume of work and financial involvements?

The Ministry's measures would be more effective if they sincerely take measures to establish appropriate accountability of the Institutions as well as the respective Education Directorate, Board etc. instead of centralising the administration.

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