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## Decentralisation of educational admin. suggested

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The National Education Advisory Council (NEAC) has recommended decentralisation of educational administration based on a thoroughly restructured District Education Authority (DEA), reports ENA.

The recommendation was contained in the revised preliminary draft of the interim education policy now under discussion at the NEAC for final approval.

According to the draft, the DEA will be an autonomous body having an Executive Director to be appointed by the Ministry. It will also have a management committee and an executive council. The management committee will comprise people's representatives, eminent educationists and persons interested in education, representatives of the concerned government agencies and local government bodies, teachers, women and students as permanent members. The committee will also have one representative each from the associations of college, secondary school, technical school, primary school and Madrasah teachers, in addition to three representatives elected by all teachers of the district, two elected by the primary teachers, a university teachers' representative if there is a university in the district concerned and union council and paurashava representatives and others.

The draft said that all the permanent members of the management committee will be the members of the Executive Council while the Executive Director will be its chairman.

The District Education Authority will have separate departments for primary, secondary madrasah, higher secondary technical vocational adult non-formal and special education and examination control board inspection, planning and general administration departments the draft suggested.

It also observed that the

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existing secondary and higher secondary education board will not be required as and when the reorganised District Education Authority starts functioning. It suggested the setting up of a metropolitan education authority for Dacca metropolis in line with the district education authority.

The draft suggested that the whole country should be divided into four educational regions coinciding with the existing divisions.

Eight regional directorates—four for general and four for technical education will be set up in these regions the draft said. These directorates will remain under the direct control of the Education Ministry.

On the university administration the draft recommended that every university of the country should be autonomous. Universities will be guided by a university act which, the draft suggested, may be formulated following the example of Dacca University Act, 1973. It called for repealing the amendment of Dacca University Act of 1973.

It said that acts for all universities including engineering and agricultural universities should be formulated on the basis of democratic principles.

The draft recommended that an autonomous medical education board should be set up for overall supervision of medical education except the policy matters. The Education Ministry will, however, guide and control the medical education, the draft said.

It suggested that educationists and teachers should be appointed in 75 per cent high-level posts in the Education Ministry. The same policy should be followed by the concerned department of the Planning Commission, the draft noted.

The draft said that a high-powered academic committee should be formed for guiding all academic issues of the degree colleges. The academic committee will have five members: two being experienced university teachers and three being college teachers including a principal.

The draft suggested that the National Education Advisory Council (NEAC) will be the highest body in determining policies on education and that the Education Ministry will be responsible for executing the decisions of the council. The NEAC will have a permanent office, the draft added.