

Female Education

Sir,—The number of literate persons in our country is very small. About four-fifths of the adult people do not know how to read and write. The picture of literacy in women is all the more discouraging.

The literacy of women in Bangladesh is pitifully low, only 13.7 per cent as against about 29.9 per cent among men.

The predominant cause for this low percentage of female literacy is the fact that formal education in our country has never reflected a definite purpose. Added to this, socio-economic factors such as poverty, lack of communication, non-accessibility to school, paucity of congenial environment, absence of female school teachers continue to retard the progress of female education.

The main impediment to formal education in rural areas is poverty and its unavoidable effects, no doubt, but social, cultural, religious and psychological factors also work together to deter village girls and women from taking formal education in schools and colleges.

The problem of female education should be approached as an integral part of economic and social development of the people. A dispassionate analysis will reveal the fact that the problem is more of socio-economic factors than psychological and have to be solved as such.—Yours etc. TAHMINA Temohani, Chittagong.