

New curriculum New curriculum of HSC can't be introduced in '85

By Motu fa Kamal

The introduction of new curriculum at the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) level from the next academic session beginning in 1985 would not be possible.

This is because the recommendations on the new HSC curriculum, submitted to higher authorities more than a couple of months ago, is yet to be taken up for consideration, a reliable source told the Times.

"Even if the curriculum is approved tomorrow, it would be impossible to introduce it from 1985, because there won't be adequate time for writing, testing and printing of new text books", the source said on Saturday.

Introduction of new curricula and syllabi from the primary level began in 1978 on the basis of the report of the National Curriculum and Syllabus Committee. By 1983 introduction of new curriculum at the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) level was scheduled for the session be-

ginning in 1985 as a gradual process.

Students who have taken up SSC courses on the basis of the new curriculum will start passing out from the year 1985. And if new curriculum is not introduced at the HSC level by that time, they will have to go through the existing old curriculum.

A curriculum expert told the Times that SSC pass-outs of the year 1985 would find the old HSC curriculum outdated, because the SSC curriculum has already been updated and modernised through inclusion of new topics that were earlier taught at higher secondary or even degree levels under the old curricula.

The recommendations on the new HSC curriculum were completed by the end of 1983, and submitted to the Ministry of Education at the beginning of the current calendar year.

Informed sources have it that the new SSC curriculum

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(recommendations) of the National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC) provides not only for updating of the traditional general courses, but also for integration of some specialised courses like nursing, paramedical, graphic arts, leather technology, music etc with the general HSC course as suggested by the authorities concerned.

The suggested integration of the specialised courses is in

addition to the overall guidelines for new curricula from Class I to XII suggested by the National Curriculum and Syllabus Committee which was formed in 1975 on the basis of the Kudrat-e-Khuda Education Commission Report.

NCDC has suggested that the integration should not be made binding at the moment on the institutions offering the specialised courses. Concerned experts are anxiously awaiting approval of at least that part of the new curriculum which relates to the traditional general streams at the level.

They say writing of books could be started by appointing committees for different papers immediately after approval of the curriculum. But once manuscripts were prepared, these should be tested at three levels—experts, classroom teachers, and students—before going for printing of the books. The one-year time left for completion of all these things is inadequate, they say.

According to them, in developed countries at least two and a half years were taken to prepare, test and introduce new text books; and once books were introduced those were kept for at least three years.