

# Home Economics Education

—Prof: Mumtaz Khan

**TECHNOLOGICAL** advance ment is dependent on specialisation in specific subject. Home economics is a multidimensional subject offering education on subjects like home management and housing food and nutrition child development and family relation, clothing and textile and related art. Each subject has specific value and potentiality and possesses elaborate elements of knowledge to strengthen individual, family, community and national life.

The home economics students should be given chance to choose the area of her interest and enlarge her depth of knowledge in specific field. Karachi and Dhaka Home Economics Colleges started functioning together to keep pace with home economics education in other countries of the world. The Karachi Home Economics College has expanded. This college is now offering M. Sc and Ph. D. courses on various fields.

But unfortunately the Dhaka Home Economics College has not moved an inch forward since its inauguration.

The home economics education all would agree is becoming popular day by day in developed as well as developing countries as it makes use of findings of science and art to practical life. Its aim is to free home from the domain of faulty beliefs, superstition and unscientific method of work.

This article analyses the importance of home economics as a subject of study and throws light on the problems of the College Of Home Economics, Dhaka.

The objective of home economics education is the development of individual and family life and maximising the use of family, individual and community resources.

At present India, Canada, Pakistan and USA are offering M. Sc and Ph.D. courses in specific field of home economics. The Dhaka Home Economics College is also in a position to do the same. What is needed is the expansion of its curriculum and commencement of honours and M. Sc programmes in specific subjects of home economics. Most of the departments have foreign qualified teachers standard books to offer higher course Condensed syllabus and absence of higher posts in specific subjects of home economics are preventing the expansion of home economics education in the country.

Population explosion congested living, demand for female labour force, resource crisis, energy dilemma, technological advancement, environmental pollution growing sense of democratic attitude towards life are creating a demand for the expansion of home economics education in

Bangladesh like any other countries of the world. Home economics being a multidisciplinary course it equips a girl for multiple jobs besides teaching. She can be a dietitian better family planning and M.C.H. health visitor as she can guide homemaker on all aspects of home along with health. She can run nursery schools day care centre, garment industry tailoring shop boutique shop of her own. She can make best use of her education in advertising agency, bank, standardised institution quality control programme and urban and rural development programmes. The home economists are manning such positions in India Pakistan USA and Canada.

But the institution which has such vast prospect to serve the country through turning out technically trained personnel is being very badly neglected in Bangladesh. For instance, five higher posts to the level of Associate Professors were given to the College of Home Economics, of which three have been given to subjects which are taught at the Intermediate level or not taught at all. This is not to suggest that

I am against upgradation of posts in other subjects but this must not be so at the cost of the subjects for which this college was created.

Ironically, four senior teachers of this college, all teaching from I. Sc to M. Sc levels and all having foreign degrees are working without pay for last five months for no fault of theirs. Their claim to senior position has been ignored. Unnecessary discrepancy has been created which is affecting function in the College of Home Economics. Five senior teachers who are suffering from a sense of insecurity should immediately be absorbed against their specific subjects for the expansion of home economics education. Was not Home Economics College set up to expand home economics education in the country? Or was it created for some other purpose? The conversion of the posts of five Associate Professors will be easier than creation of new posts. Home economics is taught in many colleges but at a lower level. But Home Economics College is the only institute in the country where home economics education is imparted up to M.Sc level. The college needs more attention and this will bring a lot of improvement. The home economic education has enormous scope and this should be borne in mind. Let there be a concerted effort at improving the quality of education and its expansion.