

Present education system and its possible changes

A student needs 16 years to complete Masters degree in normal situation under the present education system. Of this period five years spent for primary, three years for lower secondary, two years for secondary, two years for higher secondary and four years for college or university. The first five years education is called primary, the next seven years education is secondary and the next four year education is called higher education.

PRIMARY EDUCATION

There are two currents in Primary Education level, one is general school and the other is Ebtedayee Madrasa. In the former all kinds of educations are given according to the age. In the latter i. e. Ebtedayee Madrasa, emphasis is given on religious education. Though minimum these institutions impart general education also.

According to 1987 statistics, the number of students in the Primary Schools is 99,15,534 and it is 16,00,000 (sixteen lac) in Ebtedayee Madrasa. If combined together, the number of students stands at one crore 70 thousand.

If the present rate of population growth of Bangladesh continues (as per World Bank statistics) the number of Primary students will reach 1,75,00,000 by the year 2000. The number of both Primary and Ebtedayee institutions is 57,224 (44224 13000) and the combined number of Teachers is 2,42,557 (1,90,557—52,000). If the ratio of students and the school is taken at 250:1, a total of 70,000 schools will be needed. If the existing Primary institutions are reduced from this number, there remains the necessity of more 22776 Primary schools. By the year 2000, the number of teachers required will be 3,50,000. One lac 7 thousand 443 more teachers will be needed if the existing number of teachers are deducted.

LOWER SECONDARY, SECONDARY AND HIGHER SECONDARY :

In the lower Secondary School Teachings is given from class six to class eight and Teaching is imparted from class six to class ten in the Secondary School. The number of both lower secondary and secondary schools is 10,000. There are some separate schools for higher secondary classes, i. e. 11th and 12th classes. But in majority cases, this teaching is conducted in colleges. There are 291 higher secondary schools and

450 degree colleges in the country. These 741 institutions offer higher secondary education.—The higher secondary education is divided into different branches, like Humanities, Commerce and Science.

VOCATIONAL, POLYTECHNIC, NURSING, PARAMEDICAL AND AGRICULTURE COLLEGE :

After completing eighth class some students, receive education in trade and Vocational Schools, again after the completion of 10th class a section of students goes to polytechnic Nursing, Paramedical and Agriculture Schools. These are field workers. There are 51 Vocational Training institutes, 10 Technical Training institutes 18 Polytechnic and one Nursing School for their education. Besides, there are arrangements for training in

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glass ceramics, leather, wearing technology, physical education and library science.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION :

A portion of Muslim children goes for Madrasa education in the early ages. They receive education for five years in Ebtadayee, five years for dakhil, two years for alim, two years for fazil and two years for kamil, after which they receive degree requirement to Master Degree. They spend majority time in reading the Quran, Hadeth, Jafair, Feqa, Aural and Arabic language. But nowadays, madrasas offer education on general science, social science, Bangla and English.

There are 4220 madrasas for teaching from Dakhil to Kamil other than Ebtadayee various examinations at different levels here are conducted by Madrasa Board. At the Islamic University has taken responsibility of higher education in this branch.

TOLE EDUCATION

There are 200 toles in the country for teaching Sanskrit and Pali. Member of Hindu and Bhuddist community receive education from these institutions Addya, Maddya and Upadhi levels education are given here. Bangladesh Sanskrit and Pali Board co-ordinates and conducts this education conventional and homeo treatment.

The age old Unani and Ayurvedic system of treatment have yet lost their popularity. There is one Government Unani College, and five Unani

and Ayurvedic colleges in the private sector. The students receive education in the Unani colleges for four years after completing secondary or equivalent madrasa education. Similarly, students after completing secondary or equivalent tole education go to the Ayurvedic college and study there for four years. On completion of their study in Ayurvedic and Unani colleges, the students receive certificates and enter into practice. Ayurvedic system of treatment originated in this country and unani system flourished under the patronage of Muslim kings and emperors. That is why the books on Unani are found written in Arabic, Persian and Urdu languages. A Government approved Board conducts examination, gives certificates and bears other responsibilities in the fields of Ayurvedic and Unani system of education and treatment.

Students can get themselves admitted into Homeo college after passing higher secondary classes. After five years of study, the successful students can obtain MBBS degree. Homeopathic Medical Board awards this degree.

HIGHER EDUCATION :

After passing the higher secondary classes, the meritorious students go to the colleges or universities for admission into degree pass or honours courses. The duration of pass course is two years and the duration of honours course is three years. The pass course students and the honours students obtain master's degree after their two-year and one-year studies respectively in the universities or colleges.

There are facilities for science students to receive higher education in engineering, medical and agriculture, besides studying in general colleges and science faculties of the universities. Four-year courses are run for engineering and agriculture degree. Master's degree can be obtained in these fields after another year's Education. Five years study is needed for bachelors degree in medical and architecture. Engineering education is conducted by one university and four colleges of the country. Arrangements are also there in the university for studying one-year Master's degree after the 4-year bachelor's degree course. Similarly one Agriculture university, two agricollleges award Bachelor's degree courses after a four-year study. They have arrangement for awarding Master's degree after one-year education.

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the existing teachers, the shortage of teachers can be solved temporarily and increase the number of teachers after giving them short training. But we have to be about in recruiting teachers. It will not do any good if curricula and syllabus are changed only. It will be futile if the teachers' mentality and realisation is not built up. So equal importance should be given in selecting curricula and syllabus and training the teachers as well. At least 50 percent of the students leave schools after completing primary education and do not proceed further. Most of them go for work. So a training of three to six months' duration is needed to build them as skilled worker. This can be done by setting up separate centres or by extending each primary school. This will help them build up as skilled workers. Their work strategy will of much help to production. The primary education should be gradually extended from class I to class VIII. All children should be brought under a uniform education system by abolishing the Ebtedayee Madrasha where there is a separate current of education. Diniyat should be made compulsory upto class VIII. only then, the children will try to understand each other. So that they will not be divided into two classes from the boyhood. After that the students should be allowed to choose their path of education freely.

The meritorious students if intend can get themselves admitted in secondary classes after passing eight class. Others will go for trade courses, madrasa education or physical education. Similarly, those who can show their talent will be admitted to higher secondary classes after passing the secondary examination. Next can go for professional courses including paramedical Nursing, Polytechnic and Agricultural engineering. These students will constitute the lower and secondary technical manpower. They are the field workers. Their skill will bring about the agricultural and industrial revolution. Master technicians will come out of them. The status of a master technician should not be less than an engineer. There should not be any barriers for those willing to undertake higher studies who can show their talents in vocational and polytechnic level.

The successful students are admitted in higher secondary level passing the secondary level examinations. There are few schools for the students of

higher secondary level. In most cases they study at degree colleges. Mainly, the students of higher secondary level split themselves in different branches of higher education. The students of science can get themselves admitted to different science subjects in general colleges and universities. Besides, the door of medical engineering, agriculture, textile, leather technology college and technical university are open to them. The students of Humanities are admitted to social science, law and other humanities subjects in colleges and universities. Again the

students of commerce can pursue higher studies on commerce, humanities, social science, law. Those who cannot proceed further after passing the higher secondary engage themselves in earning their livelihood, under the circumstances higher secondary can be considered as marginal education. So this education can be integrated to secondary schools without making separate arrangement for it.

The colleges and universities offer varieties of educations for the qualified students after the higher secondary. Some get themselves admitted to three year degree courses and others go for two year degree courses. In case of honours, the conventional system of holding examinations after three years is in vogue in the colleges. In the universities, the system of annual examination and somewhere semester systems are provided. Two year degree system does not exist any where in the world. Its value has also gone down. On the other hand subjects have been increased manifold, those are under rapid changes. So a uniform system of three year degree course abolishing the present two systems of pass and honours can be introduced. Under this system those can secure marks of a particular level of any particular subject they can be awarded honours degree and those securing marks above a particular grade or standard may be allowed to study masters degree. It should be remembered that only the teachers and researchers need masters degree. Shrinking of education at this level will not be that much harmful.

Majority of the students enter the work after passing the degree courses. It should be remembered that every one must make his own provision either for job or self employment whatever may be the level

of education. So provisions for work-oriented education should be made for the final year students of degree courses. Subjects like electronics, computers, animal nutrition and environment biology may be chosen as optional for the

science students and again subjects like theatre, drama, cinema, population control and voluntary works may be chosen as optional for the students of humanities.

Besides law colleges, teacher training colleges, physical and sports training institutes should be set up at different places of the country. Last but not the least an open institution is of vital importance and should be set up. This institution besides running general courses should make provisions for those who seek in service studies. The fact is that the students should be imparted such an education which will integrate their knowledge skill and realisation whatever may be the education system.

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There are nine medical colleges and one dental college in the country which conduct a five-year degree courses. A student has to study for five years for Master's degree or equivalent degree in agriculture, engineering and medical. The total time required (12+5) = 17 years.

There are arrangements for M.Phil and PhD courses in the universities. The Institute of Post Graduate Medicine and Research (IPGMR) offers higher degree in medical science.

POSSIBLE CHANGES

The present education system has all necessary arrangements for study in any branch of education. Yet it seems something is lacking somewhere. Because we see that the literacy rate in our country could not exceed 20 percent even at end of 20th century. Half of this 20 percent people do not have education more than signing their own names. In fact, the percentage of educated people is not more than 10 in the real sense. Again out of this 10 percent many remain unemployed. So due attention should be given on the present structure of education, its subjects as well as needs of the society. The objective of education in the correct sense is to help bloom the students personality. This requires a co-ordination of moral, mental, scientific and technological education. Attention should be given to this direction from the primary level. A child's real faculty is not understood if some days are not allowed to pass. It is desirable that every one should have primary knowledge in all subjects for living, an effective education for all is need, no matter, they are children or adults.

In fact, work oriented education system is of vital necessity instead of the existing examination oriented education. Emphasis should be given on the students understanding and realisation of the subjects than memorising those. Application of education in life has to be stressed. The education should have provisions for acquiring knowledge both for physical and mental needs.

A Child pursuing education should be introduced to such an environment so that he learns to think about the nature around him along with his awareness for the family, society and the country.

For two reasons, stress should be given on learning all subjects from the very primary level. One, if one has realisation on all subjects, he will be able to select the subjects of his choice in the later stages. Secondly it will build up those

people as skilled worker with their power of understanding who will not be able to study after the primary level. For this a curricula and syllabus should be reformed from the beginning of primary level and arrange proper training for the teachers for its application and creation of congenial mentality.

Agriculture, medical and industry are based on science education. So, we all speak about science education. But

still the science has remained as mere an unimportant subject to all of us. Science and technology as yet could not become a part of our culture like the developed countries. As result, we could not impose our position financially. So general science should be taught as compulsory subject from the primary level to class X. The science book should be so written that the boys and girls can learn something about the application of science.

If a skilled manpower is built up and realised effectively, it will not solve unemployment problem but also bring about an industrial and agricultural revolution. This requires co-ordination of the national planning with the education planning and recasting of the entire education system.

To make the primary education compulsory by the year 2000 the needs 22776 more school and 1,07,443 more teachers. The existing school can be run in two shifts, arrangements should be made to set up more schools in phases. By giving additional allowances to

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