



Mass Media In Education

At nearly the turn of this century, Bangladesh remains overwhelmingly illiterate. This situation is likely to remain so as government priorities more or less will continue to be given to the problems of food deficit, population control and increasing unemployment. However, the fact remains that the nation's potentialities, if not properly tapped, the country stays backward. This can be achieved only through education and removal of illiteracy of 70 per cent males and 87 per cent females.

Therefore, what is needed under the circumstances is extensive use of Radio and Television. Using the radio as learning tool can be useful particularly for the spread of new ideas whether in agriculture, family-planning or any other field. But radio can be more useful if used for the broadcast of actual lessons during school time. But the use of radio in school presupposes many things. Each school must have a radio: the lessons must be given in a logical learning sequence and the teachers must be able to use such lessons profitably by follow-up activities. None of these exist in most of our schools particularly at the primary level.

On the other hand, BTB started a programme for adult illiterates under the caption "Lekha Pora". But such a scenario presupposes that adult illiterates have access to TV and are sufficiently motivated to persist in their learning. Such lessons hardly benefit the illiterates. They must have some basic knowledge of reading and writing. In view of the lack of facilities in the rural areas the spread of classroom instruction through Radio and TV is not feasible at the moment. Neither Radio and TV services likely to improve shortly.

But the city is that broadcasting networks are expanding. New and more powerful transmitters are being installed, antennas are shooting up like pine trees. But to what purpose? The country is too poor to have the luxury of more and more stations and regional centres unless the masses of people are benefited. We should not forget that using mass-media for educational means has been used widely in the western world. There is no reason at all why it should not be equally successful in our country. What is required is to fulfil certain preconditions the most important of which is to provide radio sets atleast to the primary schools and train teachers to give class room instructions as also to use radio programme in schools during particular school hours. And the answer to all national problems of Bangladesh comes to one word and only one: education.