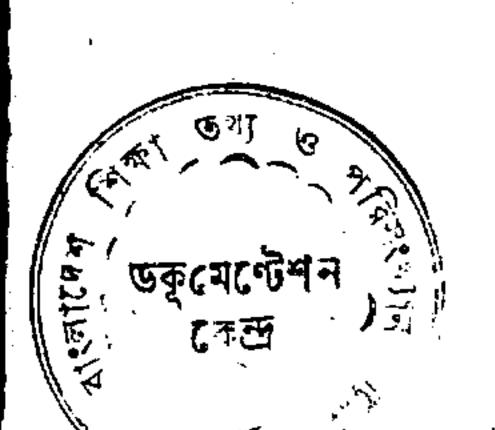
## The Bangladesh Observer



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S a result of advances in science and technology, the concept of education in the modern world is changing rapidly. Now the task of educators is to educate more people and to disseminate more knowledge. Therefore, the conventional system of education, although very effective nomic mainstreams of many societies in an institutional set up, is undemo- in the world. This learning through cratic, considering the low proporeducation to those who cannot. It is and economic way. With great promalso quite expansive and is unable to ise for the future, it has increased coupe with the magnitude of the accessibility to help meet personal, problem of the masses. This has economic, social and vocational ventionally called 'non-formal', irrespective of geographical barriers. "open" or 'distance education'. It is. therefore, not surprising that by the Communication Techend of this century, teaching in the world would be conducted by highly sophisticated media and distance education.

The university has not come to replace or oust the conventional university nor, indeed, to compete with it. This system of education is very appropriate for solving the problem of illiteracy and of those who have inadequate resources and lack of educational opportunity.

In a conventional system, students come to the university while in the open learning system, the university goes to the students of the age-group ranging from 16 to over 60 years. In the open larning system, in other words, in a distance education system, a university is without any

tries. It has now made its way deep tion.

## Open University

A.K.M. Mokbul Islam

into the educational, social and eco- The first step of a distance educadistance education goes to meet the tion of those who can get a formal real life needs in the most effective given birth to alternate models, con- objectives of teeming millions,

## nology

Print and communication play a very vital role in distance education. In developing countries, print is supported by broadcasting, while in developed countries video cassettes, video-disc and audio cassette services are used for the students by distance education institutions.

In a developing country like Bangladesh, broadcasting is more favourable, because it has the ability to reach every home with lower cost than video-cassette distribution cost. Developed countries are also considering the use of satellite and cable television as they provide more channels; better coverage and better transmission times. Television, telephone and computer, in developed Distance education, over the last countries are merging into a single two decades, has been recognised as technology, called telematics. This a significant form of education, both communication system presages funin developed and developing coun- damental changes in distance educa-

tion institution is to create the necessary structures for development and production of course books and radio Objectives and television programmes. In Bangladesh this could be done in collaboration with Radio Bangladesh and Television. And, eventually, the university has to reduce its own radio and television programmes. The university must have purpose-built studio for both radio and television production, with professional staff, including non-broadcast media sec-

There should be a network of Regional Ofices and model study centres all over Bangladesh. Tapes should be supplied to broadcasting cerning various educational probstations. Programmes are to be monitored by the production and academic staff. The country-wide infrastructure will make it/possible for tutorial, information and counselling systems to work. This means large? scale logistic support and an efficient organization. There should be interlocking departments. These could be grouped as: Academic; Service; and Administration.

be concerned with planning and writoffered.

printing and publications, mailing and radio and television programmes.

The administrative set-up will comprise the Vice-Chancelor as the Principal Executive and Academic Officer, the Registrar, his office and its various divisions.

Adhearing to the following framework, the open university could have more objectives into its fold successfully developing into a non-formal counterpart of already existing formal universities in Bangladesh:

i. To provide basic education to the masses;

ii. To provide education to the people who cannot leave their jobs and homes; 📆 🛴

iii. To provide vocational and tech-

nical training; and iv. To undertake researches con-

Education, both on individual and national levels, is fundamental to any development. It improves the quality of life, helps the individuals to \*achieve a better life and nations a better civilization. One would generally agree that many of our problems. result, on the one hand, from illiteracy and on the other, from poor or Elack of proper education and train-The academic Departments should ing A person cannot be trained well for his profession unless he is funcing of teaching materials and with the tionally literate. It is high time to supervision of the course being give attention towards distance education, for, this work in areas of The Service Departments will in- rural and urban skill and of women's clude the Region Services network, education can really bring all-round course production, examinations; national development in Bangladesh.