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# Campus Times

## Number of students down in lower secondary level

### Times Report

The number of students at Lower Secondary, Secondary, and Higher Secondary levels has increased by 81,765 from 1987 to 1988, according to the Bangladesh Economic Survey 1988-89 released by the government recently.

Official statistics show that the number of students at these levels totalled 2,94,2095 in 1988 compared to 2,86,0331 in the year before.

Between these two academic years the number of girl students at these levels increased by 36,297, according to the survey.

While the number of students at the Secondary level

increased by 68,405, the increase at the Higher Secondary level totalled 16,042 in 1988. However, the number of students at the Lower Secondary (Junior) level fell by 2,682. The decrease in the number of students at the Lower Secondary level, it appears is due to the fact that Junior High Schools are getting transformed into High Schools gradually.

Statistics used in the survey justify this conclusion. Junior High School numbered 2267 in 1988 compared to 2291 in 1987. However, the number of High Schools, and Intermediate Colleges continued to increase. The number of High Schools increased from 7681 in 1987 to

7830 in 1988. Similarly the number of Intermediate Colleges rose to 353 in 1988 from 316 in 1987.

The progress achieved at these levels of education is reflected also in the number of teachers. The number of teachers at these levels increased by 3,231 in 1988 over that of the previous year, increase from 118,974 in 1987 to 1,22,205 in 1988. The number of female teachers at these levels increased by 462 from 1987 to 1988, the survey noted. Female teachers numbered 11,911 at the Junior Secondary, Secondary, and Higher Secondary levels in 1988. This number was 11,449 in the preceding year, accord-

ing to the official statistics.

Enrolment of students at these levels is expected to rise dramatically when enrolment at the primary level will increase as planned. The government has planned to bring at least 70 per cent of an estimated 1.5 crore primary school age children to schools by 1990 and achieve universal primary education at the close of this current century.

The achievement of these targets would call for efforts to reduce high dropout rates at the primary level. Recent estimates suggest that the drop out rate from class one to class v is over 60 per cent.