

Govt steps for female edn benefit 20 m girls

Government steps undertaken in recent years for women empowerment through education have staged a silent revolution with free education for girls up to class 12 benefiting 20 million female students, experts and officials said, reports BSS.

Education ministry officials said special stipends and free education for women have directly benefited 20 million girls in the past one-decade with many of the beneficiaries now getting involved in mainstream development and income generating process.

"The government has so far

spent Taka 407.39 crore for women stipend and free education in secondary level but the returns in terms of resource generation and social development must have exceeded the amount by now," a senior education ministry official said.

The ministry officials said the government policy to keep a 60 percent quota for women for appointment as primary school teachers enabled largely, particularly the girls, in rural areas to apply their education.

The previous BNP government during its 1991-1996 tenure had first introduced the stipend for women along with making primary education compulsory introducing "food in exchange of education" programme.

The government programme earned wide appreciation at home and abroad in the recent past while several experts tended to call it a "silent revolution".

"Its a tremendous success over the past 15 years. The women are now making important contributions to different sectors," said Professor Dr M Asaduzzaman, chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC).