

Polytechnic Institutes

The hard realities of life necessitate that education should be made practical so as to enable the students to find jobs after completion of their studies without waste of time and energy. Similarly, our national development activities make it imperative that more trained technical hands should be produced. Apart from Medical Colleges, we have at present one Engineering University, three engineering colleges, 17 polytechnic, four monotchnic and 50 vocational institutes to impart such education and training to certain limited number of students. They can, in fact, meet the growing needs of the country to some extent. We are told that three new polytechnic institutes, one exclusively for female students, and 22 new vocational institutes and one technical teachers' training institute will be set up soon. These institutes, when established in addition to the existing ones, will be vital in accelerating the progress of our development work. Hence the need for their expeditious establishment.

While the urgency for setting up new such institutes and developing the existing ones need not be overemphasised, education and training imparted to students therein must be sophisticated in conformity to the changing pat-

tern of modern time. The country has to be self-sufficient in all respects not only to be less dependent on others but also to learn dignity and honour in the comity of nations. This, in other words, calls for accelerating effective and meaningful implementation of our development programmes. Technical personnel, well equipped with education and training, can play a very important role in this regard. And mere imparting this education and training would not do. Proper utilization of the trained manpower coming out of these institutes has to be ensured.

In this context, problems facing these institutes and their products, particularly in their employment, deserve immediate consideration. It is heartening that government is aware of these problems and making efforts to find their possible solutions. Facts of life dictate that, as the Vice-President, Mr. Justice Abdus Sattar has said in his inaugural speech at the three-day national conference of the Bangladesh Institute of Diploma Engineers in Dacca on Sunday, meritorious and qualified students of these institutes should be given opportunity to prosecute higher education and training. And, 'we should also', to quote him 'ensure that they are duly placed in society with dignity and honour'.