

# Technical Education For Uplift

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President Ziaur Rahman has rightly emphasised the importance of scientific and technical education while inaugurating the third council session of the Employees Association of the Directorate of Technical Education in Dacca on Saturday, Bangladesh as a developing nation requires a basic infrastructure covering various fields of science and technology for efficient use of her limited natural resources. Import of foreign technology on which our economic development programme is now heavily dependent is a highly capital intensive endeavour. It is therefore essential that a local scientific and technological base consistent with our factor endowments be created and developed. For this, as the President stressed, we have to recast the whole education system in line with the need of the society. It can hardly be overemphasised that in this age of space technology, general education would not serve our purpose. This underscores the necessity of recasting the educational strategy in favour of giving more and more technical and vocational importance to our education system. About vocational education it may be relevant to quote a Chinese proverb: "If you give a man a fish, you feed for one day, if you teach him how to fish, you feed him for many days."

This orientation in education will help create skilled manpower and employment opportunities both in and outside the country. There is a pertinent question in this regard. The question is what type of technical and vocational education and training should be imparted to the youths to meet manpower requirements both at home and abroad has to be identified in terms of the existing and potential level of industrialisation and pattern of requirements nationally and internationally. Accordingly elaborate plans of setting up technical and vocational institutes have to be drawn up and appropriate curriculum for the purpose introduced. The curriculum has to be uniformly followed by these institutes both in the public and private sectors with a view to imparting standard training to the students.

Any haphazard growth of technical and vocational training institutes without any strict binding upon them to follow definite criteria in matters of training would rather create problems. The Directorate of Technical

Education has a great role to play in standardising vocational education in the country for greater interests of the nation.

Manpower development is among the most pressing recent issues to which the Government has for obvious reasons begun paying special attention. The built-in advantage that provides a unique opportunity is our surplus manpower which awaits productive exploitation. The more demanding side to the manpower position in Bangladesh consists in its being mostly unskilled and deficient in vocational training. Over the years both by local, national and international initiative and assistance a nucleus has been formed in the country for promoting vocational training and skilled manpower development. This nucleus has to be developed in a planned way in different parts of the country. It is heartening that the government is planning to establish technical schools in each police station for dissemination of scientific and technical knowledge.

Technical expertise is necessary both for the development of industry and agriculture. The existing technical and agricultural institutions are producing in increasing number trained personnel every year. Their education and training would be meaningful only when its benefits are profitably utilised in the fields and factories. President Ziaur Rahman has therefore asked the technical graduates and youths to move to the villages to form co-operative and open up workshops and assured them of providing generous assistance to their enterprises. This opportunity, we hope would be availed of by the youths.

The President while visiting the Tejgaon College, which imparts both general and science education, stressed the need for providing better educational facilities like modern science laboratory, library and class rooms and asked the students to devote themselves to studies. This is really encouraging both for the students and the teachers. It may be mentioned here that lack of proper educational facilities characterizes most of the private and the recently nationalized colleges. In order to impart meaningful education to the students in such institutions there is an imperative necessity of preparing a comprehensive plan to equip them adequately with modern teaching aids.