

Vocational Education

In the context of our development strategy aimed at achieving well-being of the people, it is pragmatic that efforts are being made to convert our human resources into a productive force. But the fact remains that such efforts would be more meaningful when education is made practical. It is a bitter experience in our country that, in most cases, students after having completed their academic studies have to struggle hard to find a living befitting their qualification. In so doing, they waste both time and energy. Even there are times when a good many of them become age-barred for certain jobs and are therefore forced to accept a career which does not offer them job satisfaction. As a result, their potentials are not properly utilized in proper fields.

In view of this shocking reality, it is gratifying that vocational education is going to be made compulsory in primary and secondary schools of the country. Importance of such education need not be overemphasised. Due

to economic restraints a great many of our children can hardly go for higher education. Vocational education and training imparted to them at the primary and secondary levels can be expected to help them start a career without wasting time and energy—if need be. It has to be ensured that this education and training helps the students gain personnel skills which play the most vital role in the growth of a developing nation like Bangladesh. Such skills, as observed, will also enable them to become self-confident. These will also qualify them in accordance with the demand and standard of jobs both at home and abroad.

This calls for equipping the academic institutions properly with qualified teachers and teaching aids required for practical training. All institutions, public and private, must follow definite criteria and a uniform curriculum. Otherwise, the real objective of vocational education and training will remain a far-off dream to achieve.